Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

HISB21, History: Media History, 30 credits

Historia: Mediernas historia, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-06-03 (U 2024/436) and was last revised on 2025-05-26 (U 2025/356). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can be included in a general qualification for first or second-cycle studies.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
-	G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to provide a basic account of key perspectives in media history,
- be able to provide a basic account of the development of global media history from prehistory to the present,
- reflect in speech and writing upon how the media have been shaped throughout history and on the significance of these media for humanity

Competence and skills

- perform basic information searches and apply basic methods of source criticism
- discuss and problematise media-historical source material orally and in writing and in dialogue with different groups,

- identify and compare different interpretations of media-historical development,

Judgement and approach

- be able to assess different interpretations of media-historical development critically and in relation to their respective philosophical starting points,
- apply knowledge of media history to issues of relevance to society and humanity in general,
- apply a media history perspective to their own surroundings.

Course content

The four modules are chronologically arranged and deal with the most important trends in the history of the media and different fundamental perspectives on these. Communication through text, sound and image is discussed continuously in mutual relation to economic, political, cultural and social change. Basic concepts for and perspective on the history of the media are introduced gradually through the modules. The course is based on the broad media concept and the idea that different media forms must be understood in relation to one another.

The course consists of the following modules:

1. HISB22, From Stone Tablets to Bookprint, Media History before 1600, 7.5 credits
2. HISB23, Newspapers among other media, 1600-1850, 7.5 credits
3. HISB24, The Rise of the Modern Media Society, 1850-1940, 7.5 credits
4. HISB25, Old and new media after 1940, 7.5 credits.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, workshops and computer-based exercises.

It is compulsory to participate in about 10 seminars and to write 8-12 blog posts.

The opportunity to compensate for or resit compulsory components will be offered to a student who has been unable to participate due to circumstances beyond their control such as accidents, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching sessions due to work as a student representative.

Assessment

Module 1 is assessed based on one written on-campus invigilated exam.

Module 2 is assessed based on one final written assignment and one oral exam.

Modules 3 and 4 are assessed through one written on-campus invigilated exam per module.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

For the grade of Pass on the whole course, students must have been awarded at least the grade of Pass on all modules. For the grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must also have been awarded this grade on at least three of the modules. In module two, it is required that both the examination assignments have achieved the grade Pass with distinction. For the grade of Pass in modules 3 and 4, all compulsory components must have been carried out and the on-campus exams are to have received the grade of Pass. For a grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must also have been awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction on the on-campus exams.

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of History, Lund University.
- The course replaces MHIA11.
- Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 can also be read as freestanding courses with the course codes HISB22, HISB23, HISB24 and HISB25.
- The number of credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see current registration and information material.
- Module names in Swedish:

1. Historia: Från stentavlor till boktryck, tiden fram till 1600
2. Historia: Tidningar bland andra medier, 1600-1850
3. Historia: Det moderna mediesamhällets framväxt, 1850-1940
4. Historia: Gamla och nya medier, tiden efter 1940