

HISB24, History: The Rise of the Modern Media Society, 1850-1940, 7.5 credits

Historia: Det moderna mediesamhällets framväxt, 1850-1940, 7,5 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 2024-06-11 (U 2024/439) and was last revised on 2025-05-26 (U 2025/354). 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

Upon completion of the course, the student shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to give an account of the fundamental features of the media-historical development and the emergence of the modern media society between 1850 and 1940,
- be able to give an account of important trends for different media for example press, film and radio in relation to economic, technological, cultural, political and social change,
- be able to define and understand key concepts and fundamental perspectives,

Competence and skills

- be able to identify and critically discuss several types of media in writing, orally and in dialogue with others,
- be able to 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,
- be able to assess media critically by taking into consideration scientific, ethical and social aspects.

Course content

The course follows the emergence of the modern media environment from the middle of the 19th century up to the 1940s. The thematic focus is on the interwoven development of various media, nations and nationalisms. For example, we examine in more detail telegraphy's infrastructures, the changes in the late 19th century press, how the newspaper staff were transformed from litterateurs to journalists, advertising and consumption in mass society, how sound media such as the radio, the telephone and the phonograph were developed from public to private listening, early film and media and propaganda during the two world wars.

Course design

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

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in 2 seminars. 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

The course is assessed through one on-campus written invigilated exam and 2-3 written blog posts.

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, all compulsory components must have been carried out and the written exam and the blog posts 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 written exam and all blog posts.

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of History, Lund University.
- The course is also included as module in HISB21, the History of the Media.
- 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.