

HISS02, Historical Studies: Theory and Methodology in Historical Sciences, 7.5 credits

*Historiska studier: Teorier och metoder inom historievetenskaperna, 7,5
högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2011-06-20 and was last revised on 2025-02-20 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/120). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is a compulsory component of the Master's Programme in History. The course can also be offered as a freestanding course. The course may be included in a general qualification in the first or second cycle.

Language of instruction: Swedish

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
History of Ideas and Sciences	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
History	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- describe and reflect on central theories and methods used in Swedish and international historical research and related disciplines,

Competence and skills

- critically discuss the applicability of various theories and methods in historical studies and related disciplines,
- reflect on how the question, choice of source material and method are related to the theoretical position,
- reflect on how the choice of theory and method affects the interpretation and scope of the research results,

Judgement and approach

- make assessments of research ethics and discuss the role of historical research in society,
- relate to and problematise different directions in historical research and the theories and methods used in these.

Course content

The course addresses both Swedish and international research within historical studies, with a focus on questions related to the selection of methodology and theory. The research process is studied in its entirety, i.e. how the method, source material and interpretation perspective are related to the theoretical framework of interpretation. A central aspect involves being able to problematise and discuss the applicability of various theories and methods in historical research. The course also provides an overview of the theories and methods used in historical research and research in the history of ideas and prepares students to choose methodological approaches for their own academic paper.

Course design

The teaching consists of 8-10 sessions, generally seminars, as well as lectures and group exercises. All teaching sessions are compulsory and require both preparation and active participation in accordance with the instructions of the teaching practitioner.

If a student is absent from a compulsory teaching session for a valid reason, a written supplementary assignment according to the instructions of the teaching practitioner is required. A supplementary assignment is allowed as an exception; if a student misses more than three teaching sessions, these sessions can be repeated the next time the course is offered.

Assessment

Assessment is based on a written assignment and an oral assignment.

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

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits in history, history of ideas or another subject with an historical focus, or equivalent knowledge,

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of History, Lund University.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see the current application information and other relevant documentation.