



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

HISS51, History of Knowledge, 7.5 credits

Kunskapshistoria, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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 2025-12-08 (U 2025/621) and was last revised on 2025-12-10 (U 2025/622). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is given as a freestanding course. The course is an elective course in the Master's programme in Historical Studies.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Specialisation

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

- be able to give a detailed account of the field of the history of knowledge and its main orientations,
- be able to independently discuss the central concepts, frameworks and theories of the history of knowledge,

Competence and skills

- be able to apply key epistemological perspectives and concepts to different types of historical material,

- be able to relate epistemological issues to wider historical contexts,
- be able to design a major research task in the history of knowledge and argue for its relevance,

Judgement and approach

- be able to reflect on the contemporary knowledge society from the perspective of the history of knowledge.

Course content

The course aims to provide a qualified orientation in the international field of the history of knowledge and an in-depth study of a number of central themes in the history of knowledge. Students are introduced to key concepts and research discussions in the field; they also familiarise themselves with various applications and empirical studies. A general feature of the course is that today's knowledge society is problematised and illuminated with the help of insights and perspectives from the history of knowledge.

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 course lecturer.

If a student is absent from a teaching session for a valid reason, a written supplementary assignment is required according to the instructions of the course lecturer. Supplementation 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

The course is examined through a final written take-home exam (5 credits), and 1-2 oral and 1-2 written assignments (2.5 credits).

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, the student must have been awarded this grade on all assessed components. For a grade of Pass with Distinction, the students must have been awarded this grade on the take-home exam.

Entry requirements

Knowledge in English corresponding to the language requirements to meet the general entry requirements for Bachelor's level studies and a bachelor course in history or the history of ideas and science, or another subject with a 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 registration information and other relevant documentation.