

ILHA26, History of Ideas: Level 2, 30 credits

Idé- och lärdoms historia: Fortsättningskurs, 30 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2023-06-18 (U 2023/468) and was last revised on 2026-03-11 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/156). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-11 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

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

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study *Specialisation*

History of Ideas and Sciences G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- distinguish and account for the relationship between scientific and intellectual movements and specific places in history,
- account for and critically discuss the Swedish history of ideas from the Middle Ages to the 20th century,
- reflect on and describe at an advanced level how ideas have been formed throughout history and the influence these ideas have had on our modern intellectual life,

Competence and skills

- interpret texts and other artefacts of interest to the history of ideas in a critical manner,
- critically analyse currents of ideas and traditions of thought in the Swedish history of science and ideas, and place these in an historical perspective,
- orally and in writing analyse classical Swedish texts from the history of ideas,
- formulate a relevant question for investigation in relation to the history of ideas, as well as process and present this in an academic paper with scholarly precision,
- search, collect, evaluate and interpret source material in an independent way as well as communicate results orally and in writing,

Judgement and approach

- reflect on and assess how ideas have influenced society and vice versa.

Course content

The course offers both a general introduction to research in the history of ideas and specialisation in specific themes and environments of the history of ideas. The first module examines historical examples of the relationship between intellectual life and specific places where ideas and knowledge are produced, discussed and communicated. In the following module, the students receive a basic introduction to Swedish history of science and ideas as well as training in the discussion and analysis of central source texts in relation to current research. During the third module, preparation is made for the essay by allowing the student to concentrate on methodological and practical research skills. The course is completed with an individually written essay that is defended at a final seminar.

The course consists of the following modules:

1. Placing Intellectual History (7.5 credits),
2. History of Ideas in Sweden (10.5 credits),
3. Research methods in the History of Ideas (4.5 credits),
4. Essay (7.5 credits).

Course design

Teaching mainly consists of lectures and seminars as well as independent projects. Compulsory attendance applies to 12-16 seminars and group exercises, which are specified in the instructions that will be given to the student at the beginning of the course. Absence from these components is to be compensated for with written assignments.

Assessment

1. Assessment of Placing Intellectual History (7.5 credits) is based on 1 written assignment.
2. Assessment of History of Ideas in Sweden (10.5 credits) is based on 1 written on-campus exam.

3. Assessment of Research methods in the History of Ideas (4.5 credits) is based on 2 written take-home assignments.

4. Assessment of Essay (7.5 credits) is based on an essay.

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 for all modules. For a grade of Pass with Distinction for the whole course, the student must also have been awarded this grade for at least 15 of the course's credits.

For the grade of Pass with Distinction on module 3 this grade is required on at least one of the written assignments, as well as the grade Pass on the other one.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements and ILHA10: History of Ideas: Level 1, 30 credits, or equivalent knowledge.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, the Division of the History of Ideas and Sciences, Lund University.
- The course replaces ILHA20.
- 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 materials.

1. Module names in Swedish:
 1. Idéhistoriska platser
 2. Svensk idé- och lärdoms historia
 3. Idéhistorisk forskning i praktiken
 4. Uppsatskurs