



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

ILHB32, The History of Ideas: History of Ideas about the Future: Expectations, Utopias and Dystopias, 7.5 credits
Idé- och lärdomshistoria: Framtidens idéhistoria: Förväntningar, utopier och dystopier i historisk belysning, 7,5 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 2016-02-23 to be valid from 2016-02-23, autumn semester 2016.

General Information

Subject: History of Ideas and Sciences.

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

Main field of studies

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- account for a number of notions/ideas trying to predict the future
- identify agents, thinkers, works (fiction, research, popular culture etc) and social movements of significance to the utopian and dystopian tradition and relate them to contemporary political and social circumstances
- distinguish between and account for types of utopias and dystopias from different historical eras
- account for a number of important theoretical approaches to utopias and dystopias

Competence and skills

- critically analyse selected utopian/dystopian works and practices of relevance and situate them historically
- reflect in writing on when and where utopian ideas arise in society

Judgement and approach

- analyse the meaning of utopian/dystopian ideas, and assess them in relation to social, ethnic and gender studies aspects

Course content

The aim of the course is to highlight and analyse ideas about the future from Antiquity and onwards. Among the topics discussed are scientific and religious claims of knowledge about the future, political visions, popular culture images, practices and the impact of technological development on utopian ideas. Emphasis is placed on the modern development of utopias and dystopias and the question: Where is humanity headed?

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures. The total number of teaching sessions is approximately 7.

Assessment

The assessment is based on an individual written assignment. There are three examinations in total.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

The grades awarded are Fail, Pass and Pass with Distinction.

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.

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2. 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.

Subcourses in ILHB32, The History of Ideas: History of Ideas about the Future: Expectations, Utopias and Dystopias

Applies from H16

1601 History of Ideas about the Future, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction