

ILHS10, History of Ideas: Language, Rhetoric and Concepts, 7.5 credits

Idé- och lärdoms historia: Språk, retorik och begrepp, 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 2025-03-12 (U 2025/184). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-12 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is part of the Master's Programme in History and is an elective within the programme's History of Ideas and Sciences specialisation. 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

Main field of study

History of Ideas and
Sciences

Specialisation

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 the role of language in the study of history and how concepts and rhetorical devices have historically been used to express and communicate ideas,
- describe and discuss current rhetorical and historical semantic concepts, theories and analytical perspectives,

Competence and skills

- critically discuss language in a historical context,
- apply historical semantic and rhetorical analysis methods to different source materials,
- discuss theoretical questions related to different types of linguistic material orally and in writing,

Judgement and approach

- evaluate and problematise the role of language from a history of ideas perspective,
- contribute to a constructive critical discussion, orally and in writing, on semantic change and the use of language for argumentation in research and the public debate.

Course content

The course provides an in-depth understanding of how language, as a conveyor of ideas, has been studied within the framework of both rhetoric and conceptual history research. Methods for investigating the contextually embedded meanings of words and for analysing the genre-specific and rhetorical properties of texts are also discussed. Students practice independently applying rhetorical and conceptual analysis methods to concrete examples.

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 through a written take-home assignment and an oral presentation.

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 Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- The course replaces ILHS14.
- 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.