

IMSM05, Intermedial Studies: Contemporary Popular Culture Across Media, 7.5 credits

Intermediala studier: Samtida populärkultur i olika medier, 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 2026-08-26 (U 2026/509). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-08-26 and is valid from the autumn semester 2027.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

The language of instruction is English. The course may also be taught in Swedish by special agreement between the teaching staff member and the students. Such an agreement requires that the teaching staff member and all students are proficient in Swedish.

*Main field of
study*

Specialisation

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A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to critically analyse and further develop key concepts in intermedial theory at an advanced level,
- be able to independently situate contemporary popular cultural phenomena in relation to discussions in cultural and media theory.

Competence and skills

- be able to implement independent, theoretically informed analyses of complex contemporary popular cultural phenomena,
- be able to synthesise and critically compare different cultural and media theory perspectives,
- be able to formulate complex ideas orally and in writing based on academic argumentation and intermedial terminology.

Judgement and approach

- be able to critically evaluate the epistemological, aesthetic and social functions of popular culture in the contemporary world,
- be able to adopt an independent and reflective approach to the use of cultural theories and critically evaluate their relevance, possibilities and limitations in intermedial analyses of contemporary popular cultural expressions.

Course content

This course examines popular culture as an intermedial, historically situated and theoretically contested field, with a focus on the present day. It highlights how popular cultural expressions are produced, circulated and renegotiated in relation to changing media ecologies, technologies and cultural practices. Key concepts such as mediality, remediation, media convergence, seriality, affect, participatory culture and cultural value are explored in depth and placed in relation to cultural theory traditions and contemporary media theory. The course critically examines how boundaries between media, genres and forms of production are created, maintained and transgressed, as well as the aesthetic, ideological and economic consequences this entails. It includes in-depth thematic case studies in which students apply and develop theoretical perspectives in analyses of complex contemporary popular cultural phenomena. These analyses focus in particular on historicisation, media materiality, audience practices and power relations. Examples of themes include cross-media narratives, digital popular culture and platforms, political and ideological dimensions, participatory cultures, and the relationship between commercial logics and aesthetic expressions.

Course design

The course consists of 1 introductory session, 6–7 lectures, 2–3 compulsory seminars.

To pass the course, students must also attend at least 80% of the course lectures; if this is not the case, students must make up for missed components on another course occasion.

We propose that you include the following: If students, through no fault of their own, for example due to an accident or sudden illness, have been unable to complete one or more compulsory components, the department is responsible for ensuring that an equivalent alternative or an alternative date for the respective component is offered. This also applies to students fulfilling assignments as student representatives.

Assessment

Assessment takes the form of a written assignment (6 credits) and an oral final presentation of this assignment (1.5 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

Entry requirements

90 credits at first-cycle studies, including a bachelor's thesis in one of the following subjects: art history and visual studies, film studies, musicology, design studies, architecture, literary studies, media and communication studies, media history, or equivalent, as well as English 6/English Level 2.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- Credit points for course content that is wholly or partly shared with another course may only be counted once towards the degree.
- For further information, please refer to the current application and information material.