SIMM34, Social Sciences: Digital Media Research, 7.5 credits
Samhällsvetenskap: Digital medieforskning, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Graduate School Board on 2016-09-19 and was valid from 2017-01-16 , spring semester 2017.

General Information

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course in Social Science at the second-cycle level and as an optional course within the Master of Science Programmes. The course is also a requisite course in the Master of Science Program in Media and Communication Studies.

Main field of studies	Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
Development Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Social Anthropology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Social Work	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Education	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Human Geography	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Political Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Gender Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Media and Communication Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology of Law	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
On completion of the course the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge of qualitative methods and contexts for understanding digital media empirical research in the social sciences.
- demonstrate an understanding of selected research design and research methods to digital media research methods.

Competence and skills
On completion of the course, the student shall independently and with proficiency show ability to:

- evaluate the empirical claims of selected qualitative methods for different research issues associated with digital media in society and culture.
- produce, analyse and present research methods information using various forms of verbal and written communication.

Judgement and approach
On completion of the course, the student shall:

- demonstrate critical evaluation of the empirical qualitative approaches to digital media within the social sciences.
- demonstrate understanding of the importance of reliable, valid and situated research in a critical study of digital media, society and culture.
- demonstrate insights in the possibilities and limitations of qualitative research on digital media environments within the social sciences.

Course content

The course is based on qualitative multi-methods within digital media research. It offers an introduction to digital media research methods, emphasising the significance of reliable, valid and situated research in a critical study of digital media in society and culture. Digital media is understood to include business, public service and non commercial digital spaces. The course focuses on combining empirical research with critical social and cultural theories in order to emphasise how the digital media researcher uses, adapts and critically reflects on methods and concepts to research problems or questions.

The course examines three methods: the first method includes production studies, specifically the method of production interviews. This method is useful for institutional analysis of professionals, amateurs and practitioners where one to one interviews are necessary for understanding inside a digital production culture. The second method includes aesthetics and communicative form of digital media content, specifically text, sound and image analysis. This method is useful for studying selected samples of digital texts and representations in a range of content. The third method includes digital ethnography, specifically looking at routines, mobilities and socialities. This method is useful for in depth, focused research of digital media events, or social

movements. These three methods are connected to key concepts of media industries and professional practices, systemic and symbolic power within digital media environments, and everyday routines of digital ethnography practices.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and workshops. Participation in seminars and workshops are mandatory.

Attendance at seminars is compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as student representatives.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the following:

- a written essay related to the selected methods and literature as studied during the course. The essay involves evaluation of methods and concepts associated with digital media research.
- group based oral presentations on course literature for seminars.
- group based assignments for seminars and workshops.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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

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Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.
Marking scale: Fail (U), E, D, C, B, A. The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail (U). The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The oral presentation and active participation is awarded with pass or fail, whereas the grades of the group assignments and written essay determine the overall grade on the course.

0 credits (Pass/Fail) on two literature seminars (active participation);

0 credits (Pass/Fail) on one group assignment, including active participation in workshops, in which the students apply method(s);

7,5 credits (graded A-E) for the individual paper.

In order to pass the course, the student has to be awarded at least an E on the graded assignment and a "pass" on the ungraded assignment.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

For admission to the course, students must have passed at least 150 credits including a Bachelor's degree project in the social sciences, humanities or the equivalent.

Oral and written proficiency in English corresponding to a Pass in English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. The assessment of corresponding qualifications is made with reference to national guidelines. International students are exempted from the general entry requirement of proficiency in Swedish.

Subcourses in SIMM34, Social Sciences: Digital Media Research

Applies from V17

1601   Literature Seminar I, 0,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, Pass
1602   Literature Seminar II, 0,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, Pass
1603   Group Assignment, 0,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, Pass
1604   Individual Paper, 7,5 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A