

SIMS40, AI in Society, 15 credits

AI i samhället, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2019-11-26 and was last revised on 2025-11-24. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-11-24 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

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 Programmes in Global Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Development Studies and Social Studies of Gender, as well as other Master's programmes within the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Language of instruction: English

| <i>Main field of study</i> | <i>Specialisation</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| Middle Eastern Studies | 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 |
| Media and Communication Studies | 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 |
| Social Work | A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements |

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| 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 |

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate extensive knowledge of different social science and humanities perspectives on Artificial Intelligence in society.
- Demonstrate the ability to make assessments of central aspects of Artificial Intelligence in society based on relevant scholarly and ethical considerations.

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate the ability to apply theories of social science and the humanities in analyses of Artificial Intelligence in society.
- Demonstrate the ability to relate contemporary social problems to the social science and humanities studies of Artificial Intelligence.

Judgement and approach

- Demonstrate the ability to formulate a research problem and carry out a minor scientific study in the field of Artificial Intelligence in society within a given time frame.
- Demonstrate the ability to contribute to a common learning environment and to aspects of group dynamics in learning processes.

Course content

Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be defined as systems which show intelligent behaviour by analysing their environment and with some degree of autonomy act to reach certain goals. AI has become an umbrella term for information technology, robotics, and digitalisation more broadly, including machine learning techniques enabling computers to improve themselves.

The aim of this course is to provide a multifaceted theory-based understanding of AI in society and to prepare the student to critically reflect upon the ongoing expansion of AI and the consequences of AI applications on humans and institutions. This is a multidisciplinary course offering perspectives on AI in society from several social science disciplines as well as perspectives from the humanities, providing a wide-ranging understanding of AI in a societal context. Themes covered by the course include: use and misuse of AI technology, intended and unintended effects, governance and regulation, and international relations.

Course design

Teaching is given in the form of lectures, seminars, and supervision.

Participation in seminars is mandatory. Failure to participate in seminars will be compensated for with written make-up assignments during the course.

Assessment

The course is examined through an individually written course paper (12 credits) and an oral presentation of the paper which includes answering questions about the work (3 credits).

The individually written course paper is written from one or more of the perspectives presented during the course, chosen by the student together with the examiner. The course paper should reflect a research process in which the student formulates a scientific problem within the selected perspective/s, makes use of relevant course literature and processes additional empirical and theoretical material to analyse this problem. The course papers are presented at a final seminar in which the student answers questions about the paper and also discusses another student's paper.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

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 overall course grade is based on the following:

- An individually written course paper (12 credits)
- An oral presentation of the paper including questions and answers about the work (3 credits)

The oral presentation is exempt from the grading scale above. The grade awarded for this component is Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The student's grade on the course will be determined based on the result of the individually written course paper. For a grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least an E on all assessments for which the grading scale A-E+Fail applies, and the grade of Pass on all assessments for which the grading scale

Pass – Fail applies. The student must also have participated in all compulsory components.

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 on the course.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have 150 credits including a graded thesis for the degree of Bachelor, or a completed major, in the Social Sciences, or another equivalent subject.

Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.