



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
History

Syllabus

Source criticism

Course Code:	HIG100
Course Title:	Source criticism <i>Källkritik i den digitala informationsrevolutionen</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:
HIA (History)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2019-03-04, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2019 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements plus History 1b or 1a1 + 1a2 and Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2, or History A and Civics A

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. describe the formation and development of source criticism in history research,
2. analyse and assess the source value and truth value of different sources,
3. consider how source criticism in history research relates to epistemological changes, and
4. give examples of applications of the functional source concept in everyday life and for historical events.

Content

The aim of the course is that students develop skills related to source criticism and the challenges of the digital flow of information through increasing their ability to assess the usability of information. Our cognitive approach to analogous sources is changing, and the need for understanding and being able to use information increases alongside the digital revolution which also increasingly highlights the function of source criticism.

In the context of history research and the development of source criticism as a part of modern society, the course treats new challenges related to the postmodern information systems of our time. The changing concept of the archive on the one hand and the concept of functional sources on the other are emphasised in the course as ways of catering to our contemporary need for advanced source criticism. The course includes examples of historical applications and everyday situations which allow students to use and adapt proven methods for decoding and understanding information.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on an individual written take-home exam and seminars.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Distance course