

Course Guidelines

New Media, Spring 2019

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Start of the course: 25 January at 11 in Seminarierum 1

Course description:

The concept of “new media” has introduced itself as a vital aspect of studying film and television ever since the 1990s. In recent years, however, it became clear that the moniker of “new” proves insufficient to describe the various contemporary media phenomena that surround us, as it occluded their relations to “old” media as well as their own historicity. At the same time, as numerous scholars have demonstrated in the past decade, in order to understand today's mass media and visual culture we need to new critical vocabularies and theoretical perspectives, which, in turn, throw in question some of the fundamental notions of the field of film and television studies.

This course will survey current scholarship that takes on the challenge of studying new media phenomena by way of posing inquiries that go beyond the territories of screen representation. We will begin by problematizing the notion of “newness” of contemporary media by looking at its connections to “old” as well as at the distinguishing characteristic of digital media.

Following this, we will turn to a series of inquiries into central concepts in today's media studies: how do formats such as mp3 and PDF challenge established notions of medium specificity? How are the infrastructures of fiber-optic networks designed, operate, and impact the environments? And how did the openness of today's “network society” consolidate around the highly centralized platform economy?

Finally, we will explore how contemporary works have broadened the scope of media scholarship, by looking at cultural, ideological, postcolonial and feminist critiques of new media phenomena such as search engines, airport security systems, attack drones and facial recognition systems, and the future visions of smart cities.

Overall, the course will attempt to give a sense of contemporary new media studies, where the adjective “new” qualifies not the media, but the studies themselves.

Expected learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate familiarity with central concepts in new media studies, and an ability to critique and apply them in independent research.

Assessment :

Written take-home exams will be assigned during the course.

Students need to compose their written assignments so that they can be presented electronically, if the teacher so requires. Written exams may be scanned with the tool Urkund. Possible fraud, such as plagiarism, will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee. Corrected exams can be collected at the Student Office.

Examination dates:

The examination dates can be found in [TimeEdit](#).

Assessment criteria:

For goal-related 7-point grading scale

The assessment criteria below set out the minimum requirements for the different levels of grades awarded at the end of the course. These assessment criteria directly reflect the learning objectives of the course.

Advanced Level

Areas of assessment

- Scientific argumentation and analytical ability
- Theoretical and methodological awareness (independence, relevance and reflexivity)
- Relation of students' work to the course material (course literature and screenings)
- Appropriate level of discourse and written expression

Assessment criteria

A	<p>In addition to the requirements for the attainment of a B grade, the degree project is distinguished by the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A distinctly independent, innovative and nuanced approach to argumentation and analysis. • The research problem is formulated with originality and clarity. • Thorough, innovative problematisation of the current research situation. • A particularly thorough and sustained analysis throughout all parts of the project. • A notably original and detailed problematisation of the course material.* • Impeccable written presentation; there is great accuracy in the provision of footnotes and references.
B	<p>In addition to the requirements for a C grade, the degree project is distinguished by the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent and nuanced approach to argumentation and analysis. • The research problem is formulated with originality as well as a critical perspective. • A detailed and independent explanation of the problem area together with a thorough problematisation of research in this field. • Convincing analysis and argumentation throughout the project. • An original and detailed problematisation of the course material.* • Impeccable written presentation; there is great accuracy in the provision of footnotes and references.
C	<p>In addition to the requirements for D, the degree project has the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competent, consistent and balanced analysis and argumentation. • The research problem is formulated somewhat independently and takes account of previous research in this field. • The relevant aspects of the chosen problem area are thoroughly presented and explained. • Thorough and coherent analysis and argumentation throughout most of the project. • Competent problematisation of the course material.* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The written presentation has no major flaws; there is accuracy in the provision of footnotes and references.
D	<p>In addition to the requirements for the E grade, the degree project has the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The argumentation shows some analytical ability. • The research problem is clearly formulated and relevant to previous research in this field. • The main aspects of the chosen problem area are adequately presented and explained. • There is a coherent analysis and argumentation throughout most of the essay, including the discussion of research findings. • There is adequate and consistent treatment of the course material.* • The written presentation has no major flaws; there is accuracy in the provision of footnotes and references.



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E	<p>The degree project has the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are noticeable limitations in analysis and argumentation.• The research problem is relevant to previous research in this field.• Basic aspects of the chosen problem area are adequately presented.• The use of the course material is limited but adequate.*• The project fulfils the basic requirements for academic writing, including a structured written presentation.• Written presentation has no major flaws; footnotes and references are provided with a fair degree of accuracy.
FX	<p>Almost all of the criteria for E have been fulfilled, but some revision is required.</p>
F	<p>Most of the criteria for E have not been fulfilled and/or the student has not completed all course requirements. A full supplementary examination is required.</p>

* The course material comprises course literature, screenings, etc.

For Chicago standard, see

<<http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.php>>

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html>

Plagiarism

As a student, you will be writing and submitting different types of written assignments. It is fundamental that you know that no kind of plagiarism is permitted.

Plagiarism consists of:

- Students copying from each other;
- Students copying from the internet, books, articles or other sources without a clear reference;
- Students passing a work or a citation as their own when it is not;
- All kind of cut-and-paste writing strategies.

Any incident of this kind will be reported to the Disciplinary committee of Stockholm University. In case you are found guilty you might be suspended from the University for a period of time.

In order to avoid plagiarism you need to:

- Clearly reference your sources by specifying the author(s), the book/article/text and the page;
- Highlight that you are citing someone else's words by using quotation marks;
- Make clear whose thoughts you are presenting if they are not your own;
- Not share your work with other students while in the process of writing the exam assignment.

Writing your own text in your own words is part of your learning process. This will develop your ability to think independently and express your thoughts in speech and writing.