



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

HUM3102 The Ethics of Research in the Humanities, 7.5 credits

Forskningsetik inom humaniora, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Historical Studies on 2019-10-16, and is valid from Autumn semester 2019.

Responsible Department

Department of Historical Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Participating Department/s

Department of Cultural Sciences

Department of Historical Studies

Department of Languages and Literatures

Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion

Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science

Department of Swedish

Entry requirements

General requirements for doctoral studies at the University of Gothenburg and the Faculty of Humanities.

Learning outcomes

Having completed the course the doctoral candidate is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate a good understanding of the history of research ethics in general and ethical concerns specific to research in the humanities.
- Relate to ethical principles with regard to the publication of research results.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the ways in which the use of technological resources may influence ethical and methodological decisions.

Competence and skills

- Identify and solve ethical problems that arise in relation to the doctoral candidate's own research.
- Comply with legislation concerning research on humans and material culture, including (if relevant) with regard to their own dissertation work.

Judgement and approach

- Demonstrate that they understand how an ethical research approach is associated with methodological decisions.
- Make reasoned decisions with regard to ethical guidelines and legal requirements.
- Understand the meaning of research integrity.

Sustainability labelling

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of University of Gothenburg's stipulated criteria for sustainability labelling.

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide doctoral candidates with knowledge of the history of ethics, the development of theory, laws, and regulations, and to inculcate students with a good understanding of research ethics in the humanities and how ethical concerns may be relevant to their own work. Aspects of good practice, with regard to publication and the collection of data, generally and with particular regard to human beings, will be discussed. The course is intended to increase awareness of ethical concerns that pertain to research in the humanities. Participants in the course will be given the opportunity to discuss their dissertation topics from a research ethical perspective and acquire knowledge of how they should pursue their work according to relevant laws and regulations. The overarching aim of the course is to develop the students' ability to recognise the ethical implications of their methodology and to be cognisant of and adhere to regulations concerning the ethical treatment of human beings, human remains, and material culture.

Modules

1. Research ethics in the humanities – an introduction, 2,5 hp
Introduction to research ethical laws, regulations, principles, approaches, perspectives, including the challenges associated with increasing digitalisation.
2. Disciplinary oriented research ethics, 5 hp
Specific questions regarding research ethical concerns of the participants' own disciplines and dissertation topics.

Sub-courses

1. **Research Ethics in the Humanities - An Introduction** (*Introduktion till forskningsetik inom humaniora*), 2.5 credits
Introduction to research ethical laws, regulations, principles, approaches, perspectives,

including the challenges associated with increasing digitalisation.

2. **Discipline-Oriented Research Ethics** (*Ämnesorienterad forskningsetik*), 5 credits

Specific questions regarding research ethical concerns of the participants' own disciplines and dissertation topics.

Types of instruction

Lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction

The course is given in Swedish but can be given in English if necessary.

English or Swedish, depending on the composition of the group.

Grades

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

Pass or fail.

Types of assessment

Written essays, either individual or collaborative. Participants are expected to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the course requirements by:

- a) Discussing and writing up a short essay, individually or as a group, on the ethical questions that have been dealt with in the course
- b) Providing a written statement of one's own ethical standpoint, which problematises ethical aspects associated with writing the dissertation.

Course evaluation

The teacher responsible for the course will give the students the opportunity to evaluate the course in writing. The results of the evaluation and improvements that have been made as a result will be communicated at the beginning of the course.