



Critical perspectives on the datafied society Kritiska perspektiv på det datafierade samhället

7.5 credits

Ladok Code: C3MKP1

Version: 1.0

Established by: Committee for Education in Librarianship, Information, and IT 2024-04-09

Valid from: Autumn 2024

Education Cycle: Second cycle

Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Information Science (A1N)

Disciplinary Domain: Social sciences 50%, other 50%

Prerequisites: Bachelor's degree

Subject Area: Library and Information Science

Grading Scale: Seven-degree grading scale (A-F)

Content

The course deals with critical information science questions about the data-based society with a focus on consequences of objects, processes and human behaviour being converted into data. The course thus touches on contemporary societal perspectives data-centric development at the intersection between digitization, datafication, platformization and automation. In the course the complexity of societal development is discussed with regard to actors, interests and power relations in connection with creation, preservation and access to data. The course thereby lays the foundation for an understanding of social and societal issues, risks and opportunities with datafication.

Learning Outcomes

After passing the course the student should be able to, concerning:

Knowledge and understanding

1.1 Explain basic concepts within the study of the datafied society

1.2 Explain central currents and trends in the datafication of society

Competence and skills

2.1 Identify and discuss social and societal consequences of datafication.

Judgement and approach

3.1 Be critical of ethical aspects in the datafied society

3.2 Critically evaluate research in relevant databases and other types of sources,

3.3 Use scientific and other relevant literature to problematize current societal trends in data creation.

Forms of Teaching

Tuition is conducted through:

- lectures
- seminars

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination

The course will be examined through the following examination elements:

Written assignment: Critical perspectives on the datafied society

Learning outcomes: 1.1-1.2, 2.1, 3.1-3.3

Credits: 5

Grading scale: Seven-degree grading scale (A-F)

Seminar: Critical perspectives on the datafied society

Learning outcomes: 1.2, 2.1, 3.3

Credits: 2.5

Grading scale: Fail (U) or Pass (G)

For a pass grade (E-A) on the entire course, at least the grade E is required on *Written assignment: Critical perspectives on the datafied society* and pass at *Seminar: Critical perspectives on the data-based society*. A higher grade for the entire course is determined accordingly of the grade on *Assignment: Critical perspectives on the computerized society*.

If the student has received a decision/recommendation regarding special pedagogical support from the University of Borås due to disability or special needs, the examiner has the right to make accommodations when it comes to examination. The examiner must, based on the objectives of the course syllabus, determine whether the examination can be adapted in accordance with the decision/recommendation.

Student rights and obligations at examination are in accordance with guidelines and rules for the University of Borås.

Literature and Other Teaching Materials

The course literature is in English.

Bawden, D., & Robinson, L. (2022). Introduction to information science. Facet Publishing. (Kap 16. Information society, 14 p.)

Beaulieu, Anne & Leonelli, Sabina (2022). Data and society: A critical introduction. Los Angeles: Sage Publications Ltd. (246 p.)

van Dijck, J., Poell, T., & Waal, M. de. (2018). The platform society: public values in a connective world. Oxford University Press. (226 p.)

Additional literature of approximately 200 pages is added.

Student Influence and Evaluation

The course is evaluated in accordance with current guidelines for course evaluations at the University of Borås in which students' views are to be gathered. The course evaluation report is published and returned to participating and prospective students in accordance with the above-mentioned guidelines, and will be taken into consideration in the future development of courses and education programmes. Course coordinators are responsible for ensuring that the evaluations are conducted as described above.

Miscellaneous

The course is part of the Master's programme in information science: digital environments.

This syllabus is a translation from the Swedish original.