



AK221X Degree Project in History of Technology, Second Cycle

30.0 credits

Examensarbete inom teknikhistoria, avancerad nivå

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for AK221X valid from Autumn 2007

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

The Built Environment

Specific prerequisites

A major part of all courses should be completed before the master thesis is started. Normally, a master thesis is done during the fall of the 5th year. In addition, basic knowledge in the history of technology, or general history, is required. Such knowledge may be acquired through the course AK1202 – History of Technology and Science 4K1401 – History of Technology – general survey, or by other means.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

A master thesis in the history of technology gives a historical perspective on today's technologies. The aim is to learn how to produce a coherent analysis of a historical process based on research issues in the history of technology, where the interplay between society and technology, construed in its broadest sense, is the focus.

Course contents

The major part of the course is an individual project, which leads to a written report, scientifically based, and which produces new knowledge in the history of technology. History of technology is a discipline, which connects scientific/technological knowledge with knowledge within the social sciences and the humanities. Within the history of technology, studies can focus, for instance, on technological change (the development of new technologies and innovation processes) and the underlying factors, and/or on the social, cultural and economic consequences of technological change.

Disposition

The project usually contains reading of appropriate theories and empirical work, interviews and /or archival work. A large amount of independency and ability to take initiative is required. Research question, theory choice, choice of empirical materiel and disposition of the report are formed in close cooperation with the tutor.

The department of history of science and technology offers individual guidance during the whole process, from framing of the project until its completion. During the end-phase, a seminar will be arranged for feedback before final grading.

Course literature

Depending on topic an individual reading list will be assigned.

Examination

- XUPP - Examination Question, 30.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

Other requirements for final grade

Approved report and defence at seminar (XUPP; 30 cr).

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.