



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

Studyboard for Humanistic Informatics
Fall 2014

Semester description

9th semester Human Centered Informatics, Copenhagen

Semester details

School: School of Communication, Art and Technology (CAT)

Study board: Studyboard for Humanistic Informatics

Study regulation:

http://www.fak.hum.aau.dk/digitalAssets/84/84303_curriculum_ma_human_centred_informatics_2014_hum_aau.pdf

Semester organisation and time schedule

The 9th semester comprises the following modules:

Human Centered Informatics in Practice, project module, 25 ECTS

- Writing of semester project: Theoretical and methodological reflections on intern IT development practice.
- Supervisors of the various groups will be announced later. You need a signed internship contract to get a supervisor assigned.

Research Methodology, study subject module, 5 ECTS

- Primary goal of the course: to prepare students for planning and conducting large research projects within the field of information science as part of the of their master thesis. The course is therefor designed for students to complete a thesis application based on through theoretical and methodological reflections. This will also count as the final written exam of the course.
- 4 evening seminars and 1 longer day seminar, first seminar September 25th from 16 – 20 in the evening.
- A pass/failed written exam based on your thesis synopsis

Semester coordinator and secretariat assistance

Anchor person: Rikke Magnussen(rikkem@hum.aau.dk) and Benedikte Achen(achen@hum.aau.dk)

Secretariat assistance: Karin Jensen(kje@hum.aau.dk)

Module description

Module title, ECTS credits

"Human Centered Informatics in Practice" (*Informationsvidenskab i praksis*)

The module comprises 25 ECTS points equal to 687,5 working hours.

Location 9. semester Humanistic Informatics
Module coordinator Benedikte Achen(achen@hum.aau.dk)
Type and language Project module English
Objectives In this module students will acquire: Knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> theory and methods of human centered informatics in practice with particular emphasis on the interface of theory and methods on the one hand and the cultural, organisational and/or technological complexity of the application area on the other hand the actual work situation towards which the programme is directed communication and collaboration practices within the field of informatics competence requirements of the discipline in work contexts. Skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> working in practice on the basis of informatics, including applying strategies and methods for user analysis, pilot studies, system development and system design assessing issues and solutions within the field of informatics in practice, on the basis of theories and methods for user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design communicating knowledge within informatics to peers and laypeople managing themselves in work contexts with a view to identifying issues pertaining to skills and competences. Competences in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to the preconditions for user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design in practice taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design in practice engaging in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration on user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design in practice, with a professional approach identifying own learning needs and structuring own learning in relation to the subject area of user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design in practice.
Scope and expectations In case the student has produced a product or contributed to the production of a product during the internship, the requirements for literature is reduced by 50 % - equal to 1250 pages.
Module activities (course sessions etc.) Internship in public or private organisations.
Examination

Examination 6

An external oral examination in: **“Human Centered Informatics in Practice”**

The examination is a conversation between the student(s) and the examiner and external examiner based on a project report produced individually or in a group. The project report/written work will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. Students will be examined and assessed on the basis of the entire project report, and one combined grade will be awarded each student for the project report and the oral performance.

The project report: total number of pages must be no less than 15 pages and no more than 20 pages per student in a project group, and 30 pages if written individually.

Duration of examination: 20 minutes per student and 10 minutes per group for assessment and announcement of result, although no longer than a total of two hours. 30 minutes in total for individual examinations.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

At oral group examinations, the examination must be conducted in such a way that individual assessment of each individual student's performance is ensured.

Credits: 25 ECTS

The project report and the conversation must demonstrate that the student fulfils the objectives for the module stated above.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded to students who give an excellent performance and demonstrate that they have fulfilled the above objectives exhaustively or with only few insignificant omissions.

Any re-examinations will be held on the basis of the revised project report.

Module description (description of each module)**Module title, ECTS credits and STADS code**

“Research Methodology” (Forskningsmetodologi)

5 ECTS

Location

9. semester

Humanistic Informatics

Module coordinator

Rikke Magnussen(rikkem@hum.aau.dk)

Study secretary: Karin Jensen(kje@hum.aau.dk)

Type and language

Study subject module

English

Objectives

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- disciplinary paradigms and scientific methods
- the correlation between theory of science, scientific methods and choice of theory in scientific research studies

Skills in:

- structuring subject specific research studies and research projects, including choice of research object, method and theory
- assessing the consequences of various methodological and theoretical approaches to subject specific studies and research projects

Competences in:

- structuring subject specific studies and research projects in specific contexts in practice
- working independently and engaging in professional collaboration as regards the structuring of subject specific studies and research projects, with a professional approach.

Academic content and basis

The primary aim of the course is to prepare participants for planning and conduction of large research projects within the field of information science as part of the completion of their master thesis. The course is therefore designed for all participants to complete a thesis synopsis based on through theoretical and methodological reflections. This will also count as the final written pass/fail exam of the course.

Scope and expectations

The module comprises 5 ECTS points equal to 137,5 working hours.

Module activities (course sessions etc.)

RM1: Internship project and thesis synopsis

Thursday 25/9, Time: 16 – 20, Lecturer: Rikke

16.00 – 17.00: Lecture: Internship reports: content, structure, reflexions on practice (Rikke)

1700-18.00: Exercise: Structuring internship reports

18.00-19.00: Lecture: what is a masters project and a masters thesis?

Fall 2014 deliverables: formal demands and examples

19.00-20.00: Exercise: Write first draft thesis synopsis

Preparation:

Internship report:

Prepare a 3 - 5 min. presentation of your intern host, projects and ideas for intensionsreport.

Thesis discussion:

Prepare presentation of thesis ideas. Does not have to finished ideas in any sense - loose ideas are welcome.



Slides RM1 Fil

RM2: The Scientific Method

Thursday 2/10, 16.00 – 20.00, Lecturer: Anders

16.00 -17.30 Lecture: The Scientific Method and Theories of Behavior

18.15 -19.30: Lecture: Research design models and objective measurement strategies

19:30-20.00: Thesis synopsis

Reading

Bordens and Abbott: Research Design and Methods, chapters 1,2,3

Ars Technica, <http://arstechnica.com/science/2007/09/the-pseudoscience-behind-homeopathy/>



slides RM2 Fil

RM3: Defining the methodological and theoretical framework

Thursday d. 30/10, 16.00 – 20.00, Lecturers: Rikke & Anders

16.00 -17.00: Lecture: Choosing a methodological framework in research design

17.00-18.00: Exercise: Discuss methodological approach master thesis

18.00-19.00: Lecture: Theory, design and analysis: Theory based design/design-based theory

19.00-20.00: Survey design

Reading:

Bordens and Abbott: Research Design and Methods, chapter 9, 13, Fields, Questionnaire Design

More literature to be announced



Fields on survey design Fil

RM4: Experimental research methods

Thursday 13/11, 16.00 – 20.00, Lecturer: Anders

16-16.30: Non-experimental research methods

16.30-18.00: Experimental research methods

18:00-20.00: Experiment exercise (all students bring 1 plastic ruler, 1 round fridge magnet and 1 measuring tape)

Reading

Bordens and Abbott: Research Design and Methods, chapter 8, 10 (minus 317-329)



Experiment (exercise) guide Fil

RM5: Prototyping and synopsis writing

Monday, 1/12, 9.00 – 15.00, Lecturers: Anders & Rikke

9.00 - 11.30: Prototyping, iterative development (Anders)

11.30 – 12.15: Prototyping catalog (Rikke)

Lunch break

12:45 – 13.45: Excercise prototyping

14.00 - 15.00: Exercise: Thesis synopsis writing with possible 1-on-1 feedback

Reading

Dix et al., chapter 6: HCI in the software process

Kuniavsky, chapters 1-4, Observing the user experience

Moreira, chapters 1-5, agile development for dummies

more to be announced

Examination

Examination 7

An internal written examination in English in **“Research Methodology”**

The examination is a take-home assignment in which the student/s will explain the design of a large subject specific study within the disciplinary area of the programme, on the basis of the module, however the actual study will not be carried out. The student/s will choose the topic, and the submission deadline will be set by the Study Board.

The written assignment may be prepared in groups of up to three students. If the written assignment is prepared in a group, it must be stated which student is responsible for which part of the work. The written performance will be assessed, that is, each student will be assessed on the basis of the specific paragraphs written by that student. The written assignment paper must not exceed eight pages if written individually, ten pages if written in groups of two, and twelve pages if written in groups of three students.

Evaluation: pass/fail

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the assessment of 'pass' will be awarded to students who demonstrate that they have fulfilled the above objectives to a satisfactory extent.

The assignment paper will be evaluated by the examiner; in case of a fail grade, the assignment paper will also be evaluated by another internal examiner. 22

The study elements on which the examination is based is equivalent to 5 ECTS.