LUND UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

Department of Informatics

COURSE SYLLABUS

Reg. no STYR 2026/660

EIN003F, Emerging Topics in Information Systems (7.5 credits)

Third Cycle/Forskarutbildningsnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department of Informatics on 2026-03-25. The syllabus applies from autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course EIN003F is a course in Informatics at the third-cycle level.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies: Informatics

Course background

This is an intermediate course in information systems (IS) research. The assumption is that course participants have already taken (or will be taking) an introductory course in research in IS that covers some of the foundational elements of research within the IS academic discipline.

The IS academic community emphasizes both rigor and relevance. In order to keep up its relevance, core research topics in IS also continually change, mapping to the current trends in technologies. This course is designed to help participants gain an understanding of the most recent topics and trends in IS research.

Course content

The course will be structured around main themes in the literature. Themes and topics covered include the following:

- The Evolving IS Discipline and next generational theories
- The use/application of mixed-methods in IS research
- Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI
- Digital Innovation and Transformation

- Digital Platforms and Ecosystems
- The Future of Work and Digital Labor
- Smart-home technologies
- Digital Health and Biotech
- Societal and global impacts of technology
- Research Frontiers and Future IS Scholarship

Learning outcomes

The course focuses on the most current research trends and topics within the IS academic discipline. Thus, it aims to introduce students to exemplary published studies on emerging topics in IS, and help students 1) develop a scholarly understanding of these topics, 2) understand gaps being left behind, and 3) identify potential ways in which to further research in these areas.

The entire course is organized around a set of readings that will be assigned for every session. These readings have been pre-selected by the instructor (see separate list). The selected readings include reviews of research, classics, and exemplary studies on some of the core emerging topics in IS. It is designed in a way such that it will be the primary course vehicle through which participants will come to master the current state of IS research.

Knowledge and understanding

For a pass on the course, the student shall demonstrate knowledge and understanding of

- the most current research topics and trends in information systems
- the latest theories being developed and applied in IS research
- mixed-methods and innovative ways of conducting mixed-methods in IS research

Competence and skills

For a pass on the course, the student shall demonstrate competence and skills in

- identifying interesting and contributing research topics in IS
- choices and use of new and emerging theories in their own dissertation work
- choices and use of mixed-methods in their own dissertation work

Judgement and approach

For a pass on the course, the student shall demonstrate the ability to

- independently and critically assess the development/use of new and emerging theories within IS research
- independently and critically assess the use of mixed-methods within IS research

- critically discuss central issues with respect to the most current and emergent topics in IS and informatics in an informed way and convey this knowledge to others interested in the topic

Course design

The course will take place over nine course sessions organized as approximately 3-hour seminars conducted online (for the first 5 sessions) and then the last four conducted in-person.

The course participants are expected to read the articles listed for each theme before the seminars in order to be prepared to present and discuss the contents of the article. The reading load for each session will be usually five articles. Note that there will be a significant variance in the density of the articles, thus, students are advised to plan their reading and study time carefully.

2-3 students will be assigned a leadership role during each session. Collaboratively, they will be responsible for: 1) generating a scholarly discussion, involving all (most) course participants in the discussion, 2) summarizing key points, 3) creating an integrative framework capturing the essence of the readings, 4) facilitating the exploration of linkages among readings, and 5) posing some discussion questions. Leaders are encouraged to use slides during the discussions.

The course will end with a seminar where publishable papers based on the content of the course will be presented and discussed (see more details in the next section).

Term Paper

A team of students will work on a research project (with the instructor) and prepare a manuscript over the duration of the course. The purpose of this exercise is to develop a manuscript for submission to selected conferences.

Deadlines for the term paper are as follows:

Scheduled Item	**Date Due**
Proposal	Third week of Seminar Sessions
Final Manuscript	To be Submitted in January

The paper proposal (maximum two pages) should include a description of the topic scope, rationale for selection, and initial references. The final paper should be in the format required by "authors instructions" for the selected conferences.

Assessment

Assessment will be done along several dimensions corresponding to the deliverables of the course. This includes the following:

- Active participation in the discussions during the course seminars. To the extent possible, comments by course participants should be thoughtful and *specific to the papers* being covered.
- Quality of discussion leadership demonstrated during the assigned course sessions
- Quality of the paper written for submission to selected conferences

Credits

Grades are Pass or Fail.

Entry requirements

PhD students accepted to the PhD programme in Informatics or an adjacent subject are eligible for the course.

Academic integrity

Academic misconduct such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication and falsification is considered a serious offence in higher education (see Chapter 10 of the Higher Education Ordinance). The disciplinary measures that may be taken as a result of such offences are caution or suspension for a limited period of time from the university (and all the faculties of the university).

Course literature

See separate literature list.