



Course syllabus

Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Cultural Sciences

1HI530 Women and Power in the Middle Ages, 10 högskolepoäng
Women and Power in the Middle Ages, 10 credits

Main field of study

History

Subject Group

History

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

GIN

Date of Ratification

Approved by Organisational Committee 2009-06-11

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2010

Prerequisites

English A, History A.

Expected learning outcomes

After completion of this course the student should be able to:

- discuss the social and religious circumstances which made possible female exercise of power during the central and late Middle Ages, and also the circumstances which were impediments to this
- discuss important characteristics of female education in the medieval period
- analyse female access to social influence in the medieval period in the context of gender history.

Content

This course unites perspectives from History, Psychology and Education in the analysis of the preconditions of female deployment of power in the Middle Ages. A number of women with power in the political and/or religious spheres are the subjects of case studies. Developments in the fields of politics, religion, justice and education that have facilitated or acted as impediments to female exercise of power are discussed. The course finally discusses how conditions for female exercise of power have developed after the medieval period.

Type of Instruction

The course consists of web based lectures, seminars and discussions.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Examination and grading is based on written assignments and papers. Active participation in seminars and discussions is a precondition for passing of the course.

Re-sits are offered within six weeks (during the semester). The number of re-sits is limited to four.

Course Evaluation

Course evaluation is carried out at the end of the course. The evaluation is compiled, reviewed with the students and archived according to departmental protocol.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Obligatory literature

Christine de Pizan (1999). *The Book of the City of Ladies*. Translated and with an introduction and notes by Rosalind Brown-Grant. London: Penguin Books. 279 p. ISBN 978-0-140-44689-0.

Etting, Vivian (2004). *Queen Margrete I (1353-1412) and the Founding of the Nordic Union*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2004. 196 p. Electronic copy accessible through the University Library website.

Weir, Alison (2005 or later). *Queen Isabella: Treachery, Adultery, and Murder in Medieval England*. New York: Ballantine Books. 487 p.

Compendium of texts accessible at the course website, ca. 150 p.

Reference literature

University textbooks in Medieval history and Scandinavian medieval history, e.g.:

Sawyer, Birgit and Sawyer, Peter (1993 or later). *Medieval Scandinavia: From Conversion to Reformation, circa 800–1500*. Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press. Extracts.

Slocum, Kay (2005). *Medieval Civilization*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN 0-534-610560. Extracts.