



## Course syllabus

Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences  
School of Cultural Sciences

1HI540 Familj, sexualpolitik och barnafödande under medeltiden, 7,5  
högskolepoäng

Family, Sexual Politics and Childbirth in the Middle Ages, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

History

### **Subject Group**

History

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

GIN

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by the Board of the School of Cultural Sciences 2011-02-15

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2011

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements and Civics A, History A or Civics 1b / 1a1 +1a2, History 1b / 1a1+1a2.

## Expected learning outcomes

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

- discuss questions concerning family and sexual politics in Western Europe during the Middle Ages, and relate those to corresponding features in other contemporary societies,
- discuss childbirth and risks involved in the context of childbirth in late medieval Swedish society.

## Content

This course analyses views on family and sexual politics in the medieval era, as expressed in religious and legal sources, as well as in sources of medical and social history. Childbirth, risks involved herein and the role of midwives are studied based on late medieval Swedish miracle tales.

## 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).

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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

### Readings

Bagerius, Henrik, *Mandom och mödom: Sexualitet, homosocialitet och aristokratisk identitet på det senmedeltida Island*. Gothenburg: Institutionen för historiska studier 2009. <[gupea.ub.gu.se/handle/2077/20277](http://gupea.ub.gu.se/handle/2077/20277)> (selection, approx. 170 p.)

Bullough, Vern L. & Brundage, James A., *Handbook of Medieval Sexuality*. New York: Garland, latest edition (selection, approx. 380 p.)

Fröjmark, Anders, "Childbirth Miracles in Swedish Miracle Collections" in *Journal of the History of Sexuality* (not yet published). Manuscript provided by the author (28 p.)

Krötzl, Christian, "Parent–Child Relations in Medieval Scandinavia According to Scandinavian Miracle Collections" in *Scandinavian Journal of History* 14 (1989), 21–37. (17 p.)

Myrdal, Janken & Bäärnhjelm, Göran, *Kvinnor, barn och fester i medeltida mirakelberättelser*. Skrifter från Skaraborgs länsmuseum 19. Skara: Skaraborgs länsmuseum 1994. (196 p.)

Sjöberg, Nina, "Gender in Heaven and on Earth according to the Revelations of Saint Birgitta" in *Saint Birgitta, Syon and Vadstena: Papers from a Symposium in Stockholm 4–6 October 2007*, ed. Claes Gejrot et al., p. 246–254. Stockholm: Kungl. vitterhets-, historie- och antikvitetsakademien 2010. (9 p.)

Text compendium available at the course website, approx. 200 p.