



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

1RK050 Socialistisk kultur och livsåskådning: en historisk introduktion, 7,5 högskolepoäng

1RK050 Socialist Culture and Philosophy of Life: a Historical introduction, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

History, Religious Studies, Political Science

### **Subject Group**

Religious Studies

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

G1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2022-12-14

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2023

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for university studies.

## Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- give a general overview of the most important events in the emergence of prominent modern socialist philosophies of life
- give a general overview of the varying ethical, aesthetical, and existential values that have formed the basis of different modern socialist standpoints and cultural manifestations
- analyse different kinds of modern source material from the socialist movement, in terms of life-philosophical affiliation
- give examples of questionable and vague uses of "religion" and related terms in the academic study of socialist movements and regimes
- apply a sophisticated understanding of the terms "culture", "religion", and "life philosophy" in the analysis of modern source material from the socialist movement.

## Content

The course provides an overview of the main philosophies of life that have formed the basis for socialist standpoints, movements, and regimes. Examples from normative texts and propaganda, as well as from everyday life, are analysed by means of fundamental concepts in the history of religions and culture. By studying the cultural manifestations of the relevant philosophies of life, *viz* stories, ceremonies, and images – referred to by historians of religion as myths, rituals, and symbols – the course illustrates the visionary and rhetorical functions of socialist political culture. The course thus provides knowledge of how socialist cultures have instilled hope and urged people to fight. But the course also discusses how socialist cultures have done the exact opposite – that is, how they have sent messages intended to calm and passivise their citizens.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures and seminars. When the course is delivered through distance-learning, seminars are replaced with group exercises via the learning platform.

## Examination

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

The course is examined through hand-in assignments during the course, and a final assignment in the form of a take-home exam. In order to receive the grade of pass, the course objectives must be met. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction are communicated in writing when the course starts.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first and second-cycle level at Linnaeus University. If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to adapt the exam or to let the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

## Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. The result and analysis of the course evaluation should be promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time should be informed of the result at the course introduction. The course evaluation is anonymous.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Arvidsson, Stefan (2023). *Röd tro: Socialistisk kultur och livsåskådning under 200 år*. Lund: Arkiv förlag, 700 pages.

Ypi, Lea (2022). *Fri: en uppväxt vid historiens slut*. Stockholm: Albert Bonniers förlag, 292 pages.

Academic articles and source material of ca 300 pages.