



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

1RK100 Religionsvetenskap, allmän kurs I, 30 högskolepoäng
The Study of Religions, general course I, 30 credits

Main field of study
Religious Studies

Subject Group
Religious Studies

Level of classification
First Level

Progression
G1N

Date of Ratification
Approved 2009-11-02
Revised 2018-06-20 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2018

Prerequisites
General entry requirements for university studies.

Objectives

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

- distinguish a scientific approach to religions from a confessional perspective and in this regard demonstrate an awareness of a perspective that accentuates the diversity and development of religions, in speech and in writing;
- account for basic concepts, dogmas, rituals, texts and ideas in history and in present times within a selection of religious traditions;
- identify problems, describe some basic methods, and apply basic terminology within religious studies;
- distinguish the different roles of religions at the levels of society, groups and individuals in history and present times;
- account for some religious tendencies in a modern, globalised world.

Module 1, The study of religions – an introduction, 6 credits

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

- in general terms account for and compare different scientific approaches to religious studies and discern a humanistic scientific approach to religions from a confessional perspective;
- generally account for essential elements in Norse religion and other ancient religions, such as myths, rituals and world views, and relate these to social, economic and cultural conditions;

- apply simple methods for interpreting images and texts and critically review religious sources;
- in practical exercises apply critical thinking and a gender perspective on religious phenomena and assertions.

Module 2, Asian religions, 6 credits

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

- from a scientific critical point of view generally account for basic concepts, central texts, prominent religious figures, dogmas, institutions and rituals in history and present times within Hinduism, Buddhism and China's religions;
- in speech and writing demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of religious manifestations and historical development within Hinduism, Buddhism and China's religions in history and present times;
- analyse parts of religious documents related to Asian religions and discuss their application today;
- demonstrate the ability to critically examine, assess and discuss the course content and course literature from a gender perspective.

Module 3, Judaism and Islam, 8 credits

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

- from a scientific critical point of view generally account for basic concepts, central texts, prominent religious figures, dogmas, institutions and rituals in history and present times within Judaism and Islam;
- in speech and writing demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of religious manifestations and historical development within Judaism and Islam in history and present times;
- analyse parts of Jewish and Muslim religious documents and discuss their application today;

Module 4, Christianity, 6 credits

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

- from a scientific critical point of view generally account for basic concepts, central texts, prominent religious figures, dogmas, institutions and rituals in history and present times within Christianity;
- in speech and writing demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of religious manifestations and historical development within Christianity in history and present times;
- analyse parts of Christian religious documents and discuss their application today;

Module 5, Contemporary religions and ideologies, 4 credits

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

- generally account for some theories within religious studies regarding the conditions and roles of religions in a modern, globalised world;
- account for central concepts and phenomena within new religious movements;
- analyse parts of documents from new religious movements and discuss their application;
- conduct a minor field study and present its results to others orally.

Content

Religious studies is an interdisciplinary subject in which perspectives from both the humanities and the social sciences are used.

Module 1, The study of religions – an introduction, 6 credits

In this module, basic concepts, methods and theories within religious studies are introduced, and these are applied to Norse religion and other ancient religions.

Module 2, Asian religions, 6 credits

This module provides a general overview of the origins of Hinduism, Buddhism and Chinese religions and their historical developments until today. Theological ideas, institutions and rituals are discussed. Religious traditions and institutional changes are analysed. The diversity and variation of the religions are specifically accentuated.

Module 3, Judaism and Islam, 8 credits

This module provides a general overview of the origins of Judaism and Islam and their historical developments until today. Theological ideas, institutions and rituals are discussed. Changes in religious traditions and institutions are analysed. The diversity and variation of the religions are specifically accentuated.

Module 4, Christianity, 6 credits

The module provides a general overview of the origins of Christianity and its historical development until today. Theological ideas, institutions and rituals are discussed. Changes in religious traditions and institutions are analysed. Religious diversity and variation are specifically accentuated.

Module 5, Contemporary religions and ideologies, 4 credits

The module deals with conditions for formulating religious ideas, practising religious acts and organising religious groups in our modern, secular society. Phenomena such as religious modernism, fundamentalism and different kinds of politicized religion are discussed. New religious movements in today's society are analysed and discussed in the light of theories of secularization.

The teacher informs the students about compulsory parts of the teaching.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, group work and educational visits.

Examination

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

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified when the course starts. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must have received the grade of Pass with Distinction for 20 credits.

Modules 1 and 5 are examined through take-home examinations.

Modules 2, 3 and 4 are examined through written examinations.

For students who do not pass their first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course and the students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time. The evaluation is anonymous. The course evaluation is filed according to departmental regulations.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Module 1, The study of religions – an introduction, 6 credits

Arvidsson, Stefan. *Varför religionsvetenskap?: en ämnesintroduktion för nya studenter*. Studentlitteratur. 148 p. The latest edition.

Gilhus, Ingvild Sælid & Thomassen, Einar (2011). *Antikens religioner: Mellanösterns och Medelhavsområdets religioner*. Stockholm: Norstedt (ca 150 p. in selection). The latest edition.

Steinsland, Gro. *Fornnordisk religion*. Natur & kultur. The latest edition. (ca 250 p. in selection).

Svensson, Jonas & Stefan Arvidsson (eds.). *Människor och makter. En introduktion till religionsvetenskap*. Halmstad University. 200 p. The latest edition.

Documents

Links to online material are provided by the teacher.

Articles provided by the teacher.

Module 2, Asian religions, 6 credits

Jacobsen, Knut. *Buddhism. Kultur, historia, tradition*. Natur & Kultur, 318 p. The latest edition.

Jacobsen, Knut. *Hinduismen. Historia, tradition och mångfald*. Natur & Kultur, 393 p. The latest edition.

Poceski, Mario. *Introducing Chinese Religions*. Routledge. The latest edition. OR Poceski, Mario. *Chinese Religions: The Ebook*. Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books.

Articles provided by the teacher.

Documents

Links to online material are provided by the teacher.

Module 3, Judaism and Islam, 8 credits

Groth, Bente. *Judendomen. Kultur, historia, tradition*. Natur & Kultur. 344 p. The latest edition. ca 300 p. in selection.

Olsson, Susanne & Simon Sorgenfrei. *Islam: en religionsvetenskaplig introduktion*. Liber. 351 p. The latest edition.

Otterbeck, Jonas. *Samtidsislam*. Carlssons. The latest edition. 229 p.

Documents

Bibel 2000. *Bibelkommissionens översättning*. Liber (or other publisher). The latest edition. Online: bibeln.se.

Koranens budskap. M.K Bernström's translation. Proprius förlag AB. The latest edition. Online: www.koranensbudskap.se

Articles provided by the teacher.

Module 4, Christianity, 6 credits

Berntson, Martin, Bertil Nilsson, Cecilia Wejryd. *Kyrka i Sverige: introduktion till svensk kyrkohistoria*. Artos. The latest edition. 410 p.

Ehrman, Bart D. *Did Jesus Exist? The Historical Argument for Jesus of Nazareth*. HarperCollins. 361 p. The latest edition. ca 200 p. in selection. OR Boyarin, Daniel. *The Jewish Gospels: The Story of the Jewish Christ*. The New Press. The latest edition. 200 p.

Woodhead, Linda. *Christianity: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press. The latest edition. 130 p.

Documents

Bibel 2000. *Bibelkommissionens översättning*. Liber (or other publisher). The latest edition. Online: bibeln.se.

Articles provided by the teacher.

Module 5, Contemporary religions and ideologies, 4 credits

Hammer, Olav. *På spaning efter helheten – New Age en ny folketro?* Wahlström och Widstrand, 389 p. The latest edition.

Thurfjell, David. *Det gudlösa folket: de postkristna svenskarna och religionen*, Molin & Sorgenfrei Förlag, Stockholm. The latest edition. 295 p.

Documents and articles provided by the teacher.

Working material

Blomström, Vendela & Wennerberg, Jeanna. *Akademiskt läsande och skrivande*. Studentlitteratur. 202 p. The latest edition. ca 50 p. in selection.