



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

1RKÄ09 Religionsvetenskap II - inriktning mot arbete i årskurs 7-9,
15 högskolepoäng

1RKÄ09 The Study of Religions II - for lower secondary
schoolteachers, 15 credits

Main field of study

Religious Studies

Subject Group

Religious Studies

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1F

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2014-09-16
The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2015

Prerequisites

Religious studies 1-30 credits or the equivalent.

Objectives

Intended learning outcomes for the course as a whole

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

- identify and analyse aspects of the teaching profession in relation to the subject and its didactics,
- discuss and analyse subject-didactic attitudes in relation to the areas covered by the education,
- apply basic methods for the theoretical study of authoritative religious texts,
- account for some psychological, sociological and anthropological theories and methods applicable within the field of religion,
- discuss the conditions and expressions of different religions in relation to various social, cultural and political contexts.

Intended learning outcomes for Module 1, *Religious experiences and manifestations*

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

- identify problem areas within the psychology of religion,
- with a certain degree of confidence apply theories and basic concepts within the psychology of religion,
- discuss ways in which people's religious experiences and convictions can be expressed aesthetically in for example art and music, focusing especially on the use of different media,
- independently conduct a basic religious theoretical analysis of aesthetic expressions in religious contexts.

Intended learning outcomes for Module 2, *Religious words and institutions*

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

- in general terms account for the historical origin of some religious texts, taking into consideration the impact of institutions on the creation and development of traditions,
- account for the various roles of texts in religious contexts, focusing especially on the relation between oral and written texts,
- identify and discuss problems of interpretation with regard to the historical, cultural and literary contexts of religious texts,
- interpret religious texts, focusing on both source-critical and form-critical aspects.

Intended learning outcomes for Module 3, *Religious actions and communities*

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

- account for some sociological and anthropological theories and methods applicable within the field of religion,
- problematise basic concepts within the study of religion relevant for the view on religion as a social and ethnic phenomenon,
- analyse religious phenomena using basic methods within gender studies,
- discuss questions of representativity and reliability in relation to quantitative and qualitative studies within religion.

Content

The course is a continuation course and the first part covers three theoretical and comparative modules related to empirical knowledge acquired during the first course. After this, ethical and ideological issues are discussed. The teacher will inform the students about compulsory parts of the course.

Professional basis and professional progression

The students practise problematising and analysing important aspects of the teaching profession and arguing on the basis of relevant theories concerning learning and development of knowledge.

Scientific approach and scientific progression

The students continuously develop and strengthen their theoretical competence by studying current research and critically discussing it with others.

Module 1 Religious experiences and manifestations 5 credits

This module covers religious expressions, focusing on artistic expressions. The module discusses questions of how religious conceptions are mediated and how the medium affects the content. The module also focuses on religious experiences of individuals and how these are related to historical, biographical and cognitive conditions. Methods and

theories used to analyse and explain artistic expressions and religious experiences are covered. In seminars during the course, the students practise their ability to analyse religious aesthetic expressions. Participation in seminars is compulsory.

Module 2 Religious words and institutions 5 credits

This module analyses religious words and accounts and other oral and written expressions. Institutional conditions for religious expressions are studied and questions about the role of religious experts, canonisation, editorial work and excommunication are discussed. Methods and theories used to analyse and explain linguistic expressions and religious institutions are covered. A selection of these methods and theories are applied in seminars during the course. Participation in seminars is compulsory.

Module 3 Religious actions and communities 5 credits

This module covers religion as a ritual and collective phenomenon. Religious actions and rituals are analysed on the basis of anthropological and sociological theories. Different forms of religious communities are analysed on the basis of sociological theories. Methods for collecting data, for example "participant observation", are discussed. The module also covers questions about gender, ethnicity and modernity. In the seminars the students practise their ability to identify specific problem areas related to choices of methods in studies of religion as a societal phenomenon. Participation in seminars is compulsory.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is in the form of lectures, group exercises and seminars. Written and/or oral assignments and educational visits are included, as well as exercises on the online learning platform.

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 with Distinction, the student must have received the grade of Pass with Distinction for at least 10 credits.

Module 1 is examined through:

- Written examination
- Participation in seminars
- Contributions to discussion fora on topics indicated by the teacher in the online study environment of the course. The contributions are graded.

Module 2 is examined through:

- Written examination
- Participation in seminars
- Interpretation assignment
- Contributions to discussion fora on topics indicated by the teacher in the online study environment of the course. The contributions are graded.

Module 3 is examined through:

- Written examination
- Participation in seminars
- Contributions to discussion fora on topics indicated by the teacher in the online study environment of the course. The contributions are graded.

For all modules, absence from seminars must be complemented in writing.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted and compiled into a report, which is made available to students. The report is presented to departmental bodies and the program advisory board concerned, and is archived by the department responsible for the course.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

List of references Module 1 - Religious experiences and manifestations 5 credits

Required Reading

Geels, Antoon & Wikström, Owe, *Den religiösa människan. Psykologiska perspektiv. En introduktion till religionspsykologin*, Natur & Kultur (in selection, 250 p). Latest edition.

Hammer, Olov & Sørensen, Jesper, *Religion i människors medvetanden och samhällen*, Studentlitteratur. Latest edition (in selection 80 p).

Morgan, David, *The sacred gaze: religious visual culture in theory and practice*, University of California Press. 318 p. Latest edition.

Articles and handouts, ca 150 p.

List of references Module 2 - Religious words and institutions 5 credits

Required Reading

Cook, Michael, *The Koran. A very short introduction*. 176 p. Latest edition.

Gilhus, Ingvald Saelid & Mikaelsson, Lisbeth, *Nya perspektiv på religion*. Natur & Kultur. 180 p. Latest edition (Chaps. 1-6).

Hayes, John & Carl Holladay, *Biblical Exegesis. A beginner's handbook*. Westminster John Knox Press. Latest edition (in selection ca 150 p).

Riches, John, *The Bible. A very short introduction*. Oxford Univ. Press. 160 p. Latest edition.

Relevant extracts from religious documents provided by the teacher, for example from Internet Sacred Text Archive (www.sacred-texts.com/). Ca 50 p.

List of references Module 3 - Religious actions and communities 5 credits

Required Reading

Furseth, Inger & Pål Repstad, *Religions sociologi*. Liber. 308 p. Latest edition.

Gilhus, Ingvald Saelid & Mikaelsson, Lisbeth, *Nya perspektiv på religion*. Natur & Kultur. Latest edition (in selection, ca 60 p).

Hammer, Olov & Sørensen, Jesper, *Religion i människors medvetanden och i samhällen*, Studentlitteratur. Latest edition (in selection, 50 p.).

Sky, Jeanette, *Genus och religion*. Natur & kultur. 213 p. Latest edition.

Articles and handouts, ca 150 p.