



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

2RKÄ02 Religionsvetenskap III - inriktning mot arbete i
gymnasieskolan, 15 högskolepoäng

Study of Religions III - for Upper Secondary School Teachers, 15
credits

Main field of study

Religious Studies

Subject Group

Religious Studies

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G2F

Date of Ratification

Approved 2011-12-15

Revised 2016-03-22 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2016

Prerequisites

NO VALUE DEFINED

Objectives

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

- problematise teachers' work in relation to current research in the subject and its didactics,
- on the basis of current research assess subject-didactic approaches in relation to the areas covered by the programme,
- critically process, review, summarise and present literature on theories and methods in religious studies, and present clear arguments and participate actively in discussions of methods and theories in religious studies,
- specialise in an empirical area in religious studies, independently and on the basis of previous levels of progression, and demonstrate in-depth knowledge and an ability to reflect on issues within this area, in speech and writing.

Classical theories in religious studies, 5 credits

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

- identify and name historically influential people in religious studies within the humanities and social sciences, and account for their contributions to the development of the subject,
- discuss the relation between theoretical development in religious studies general

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- societal changes and changes in the school subject religious studies,
 - independently process and in speech and writing present theoretical literature in religious studies.

Methodology in religious studies, 5 credits

After completing the module, and with special consideration to subject didactics, the student should be able to:

- formulate clear and relevant research questions in religious studies,
- review various methods in religious studies in relation to different research questions and forms of empirical material,
- suggest and apply methods for retrieving and processing material relevant to problem areas in religious studies.

In-depth subject studies, 5 credits

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

- with a certain degree of independence review relevant research and identify standard works in an empirical area of specialisation,
- present in-depth knowledge of an empirical area of specialisation in a written report using correct formalities and layout, including subject-didactic reflections on the importance of the in-depth knowledge on their future careers,
- write a review of a monograph in the empirical area of specialisation,
- independently prepare and conduct a lesson based on their in-depth knowledge of their empirical area of specialisation and on didactic reflections in relation to the areas covered by the programme.

Content

Classical theories in religious studies, 5 credits

The aim of this module is for the students to develop their previously acquired knowledge of theoretical traditions and critical approaches to material in religious studies. The module focuses on the students gaining insights into the historical development of the subject, as well as its historical and societal context, and how changes in the subject can be related to changes in the teaching of religious studies in school.

Methodology in religious studies, 5 credits

The aim of this module is for the students to develop their previously acquired knowledge of methodological considerations and methods for analysis. The module is based on methodological reasoning, which is also made concrete in practical exercises. The module focuses on the relevance of certain methods to issues related to subject didactics.

There are two versions of the course. The version based on *the humanities* focuses on historiography, textual analysis, image analysis, rhetoric and semiotics. The version based on *the social sciences* focuses on methods such as interviewing, surveys, statistics and participant observation.

In-depth subject studies, 5 credits

On the basis of previous levels of progression, the student chooses one of the following empirical areas for in-depth studies:

- Prehistoric religions
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Religions in Eastern Asia

- Religions of the indigenous people of America, Africa and Oceania
- New religions and New Age

The module includes practice in presenting the in-depth knowledge acquired. An important part of the course includes the students relating their in-depth knowledge to their future roles as teachers of religious studies.

Scientific approach and scientific progression

In relation to previous levels of progression, the students develop their knowledge of theoretical and methodological aspects of religious studies, especially in modules 1 and 2, with a clearer focus on the students' abilities in independent reflection and evaluation, as well as practical applications of both theories and methods.

Professional basis and professional progression

All modules are related to subject didactics, with a clearer focus on theories and methodology in educational sciences, in relation to previous levels of progression.

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

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars and group exercises. Written and oral assignments occur.

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 at least 10 of 15 credits.

Classical theories in religious studies is examined through:

- 1.Active participation in seminars
- 2.Continuous written assignments on the course literature

Methodology in religious studies is examined through:

- 1.Active participation in seminars and laboratory sessions
- 2.Method exercises, individually and/or in groups, and documentation of these

In-depth subject studies is examined through:

- 1.Written assignments
- 2.Preparation and oral presentation of a short lecture on the basis of the chosen literature

For all modules, absence from seminars must be complemented in writing. For students who do not pass the 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

Classical theories in religious studies, 5 credits

Berger, Peter L. *The sacred canopy: elements of a sociological theory of religion*, Doubleday. The latest edition, 229 p.

Douglas, Mary. *Purity and danger*. Routledge. The latest edition. (in selection, ca 150 p)

Eliade, Mircea. *Heligt och profant*. Daidalos. The latest edition. 170 p.

Lincoln, Bruce. *Holy Terrors: Thinking about Religion after September 11*, University of Chicago Press. The latest edition. 142 p.

Articles provided by the teacher (ca 30 p.)

Methodology in religious studies, 5 credits

Humanities

Bergström, Göran & Boréus, Kristina (eds.) *Textens mening och makt: Metodbok i samhällsvetenskaplig text och diskursanalys*. Studentlitteratur, the latest edition. In selection, ca 300 p.

Culler, Jonathan. *Litteraturteori: en mycket kort introduktion*. Studentlitteratur, the latest edition. 166 p.

Ginzburg, Carlo. *Osten och maskarna: En 1500-talsmjölnares tankar om skapelsen*, Ordfront. The latest edition or English edition. 242 p.

Tosh, John. *Historisk teori och metod*, Studentlitteratur, the latest edition. 288 p.

Additional material and articles, 150 p.

Social studies

Kajiser, Lars & Öhlander, Magnus (eds.) *Etnologiskt fältarbete*, Studentlitteratur. The latest edition (in selection, ca 250 p)

Lantz, Björn. *Den statistiska undersökningen*, Studentlitteratur. The latest edition. 194 p.

Repstad, Pål. *Närhet och distans: kvalitativa metoder i samhällsvetenskap*, Studentlitteratur. The latest edition. 191 p.

Additional material and articles, 150 p.

In-depth subject studies, 5 credits

Literature, including one classical work, one example of recent research, and at least four research articles, is chosen in consultation with the supervisor. At least one of the articles must be subject-didactic. Ca 650 p.

General subject-didactic literature

Articles from the following online journals (available through the university library) are used in all modules:

British journal of religious education

International journal of education and religion

Religious education

Teaching theology and religion

Articles are provided by the teacher, or chosen by the student in consultation with the teacher.

