



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

2RK30E Religionsvetenskap, kandidatkurs III, 30 högskolepoäng
The Study of Religions, Bachelor course, 30 credits

Main field of study
Religious Studies

Subject Group
Religious Studies

Level of classification
First Level

Progression
G2E

Date of Ratification
Approved 2009-11-02
Revised 2018-06-07 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2018

Prerequisites
Study of Religions 60 credits or the equivalent.

Objectives

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

- 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,
- formulate relevant research questions in religious studies,
- on the basis of a research question relevant to religious studies and with a high degree of independence retrieve, review, compile and process material and present the results in an independent academic project.

Classical theories in religious studies, 7.5 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, the development of the research community, and general societal changes within the subject,
- independently process and in speech and writing present theoretical literature in religious studies.

Methodology in religious studies 7.5 credits

Methodology in religious studies, 7.5 credits

After completing the module, 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.

Independent project, 15 credits

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

- independently formulate a research question of appropriate scope within religious studies to work with for 10 weeks, resulting in an independent project within religious studies,
- identify and correctly apply methods and theories or theoretical perspectives relevant to their own research question,
- in general terms and in writing account for current research in relation to their own research question, retrieve, analyse, critically examine, compile and present material relevant to their research question, using structure, format and layout appropriate for an academic independent project,
- constructively criticise drafts of academic independent projects, individually and in groups,
- clearly demonstrate the ability to use modern information technology and demonstrate an awareness of the university's resources in this respect, by producing a written presentation of current research and their own material,
- in a correct formal way defend an academic independent project, and act as an opponent for an academic independent project.

Content

The course consists of three modules:

Classical theories in religious studies, 7.5 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.

Methodology in religious studies, 7.5 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 discusses methods and methodological considerations in two research traditions. The discussion of the humanities tradition focuses on historiography, textual analysis and image analysis. The discussion of the social sciences tradition focuses on interviews, surveys, statistics and participant observation.

Independent project, 15 credits

The main objective of this module is for the student to write an independent academic project and defend this in a final seminar. With the help of a supervisor, the student formulates an academic problem and compiles and critically discusses their material. The student must also constructively and critically discuss others' drafts of independent projects in seminars. The student must also review and act as an opponent for another student's final independent project.

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

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, group exercises and supervision.

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 22.5 credits, including the Independent project.

Classical theories in religious studies is examined through:

1. Active participation in compulsory seminars.
2. Written assignments.

Methodology in religious studies is examined through:

1. Active participation in compulsory seminars/workshops.
2. Written assignments.

Independent project is examined through:

1. A written independent project
2. Opposition of an independent project
3. Active participation in compulsory seminars.

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, 7.5 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, 180 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, 140 p.

Additional material and articles, 150 p.

Methodology in religious studies, 7.5 credits

Bergström, Göran & Boréus, Kristina (eds.) *Textens mening och makt: Metodbok i samhällsvetenskaplig text- och diskursanalys*. Studentlitteratur. The latest edition. Selection, ca 200 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 the latest English edition. 242 p.

Kajser, 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.

Rennstam, Jens & Wästerfors, David. *Från stoff till studie : om analysarbete i kvalitativ forskning*. Studentlitteratur. The latest edition, 197 p.

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

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

Additional material and articles, 200 p.

Independent project, 15 credits

Rienecker, Lotte & Jørgensen, Peter Stray. *Att skriva en bra uppsats*. Liber. The latest edition. 416 p.

Svenska skrivregler, Liber. The latest edition. 264 p.