



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

2RK30E Religionsvetenskap, kandidatkurs III, 30 credits

The Study of Religions, Bachelor course

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 2022-06-17 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022

Prerequisites

Religious studies 60 credits or the equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to

- critically process, evaluate, summarise, and present literature on theory and method in religious studies, and participate actively in discussions on method and theory in religious studies, using clear arguments
- formulate relevant research problems in the field of religious studies
- highly independently collect, evaluate, summarise, and process material with the aim of investigating a problem of relevance to religious studies, and present the results in the form of an independent thesis adhering to research conventions and conventions for academic writing.

Module: Methodology in religious studies, 7.5 credits

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- formulate relevant research problems in the field of religious studies, in a clear way

- assess different methods used in religious studies in relation to different research problems and different kinds of empirical material
- suggest and use methods for collecting and processing data of relevance for different problem areas in the field of religious studies.

Module: 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 in the humanities and social sciences, and describe their contributions to the development of the subject
- discuss the relationship between theoretical development, the development of the research community, and general societal changes within the scope of the subject
- independently process and present theoretical literature in religious studies, in speech and in writing.

Module: Degree project, 15 credits

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- independently formulate a research problem in the field of religious studies that is comprehensive enough to warrant 10 weeks of study to produce an independent project in the field of religious studies
- identify and use a theoretical framework and a method of relevance for the research problem at hand
- summarise in writing the state of the art of current research relative to the research problem at hand
- collect, scrutinise, critically review, summarise, and present material of relevance for the research problem at hand, in an independent thesis that adheres to conventions for academic writing (including structure and layout)
- provide constructive feedback, individually and in groups, on drafts of independent academic theses
- use research databases to find information for their written presentation of the state of the art of current research and for their presentation of their material
- defend their independent project in a way that meets formal requirements, and review and critically discuss another student's independent project (Swedish "opposition").

Content

The course consists of three modules:

Module: Methodology in religious studies, 7.5 credits

The aim of this module is for the student to develop and deepen their knowledge of methodological considerations and analytical methods. The module is based on methodological ways of reasoning, but it also includes hands-on, practical exercises. The module discusses methods and methodological considerations within two different research traditions: the humanities and the social sciences. In the former case, focus lies on historiography and text and image analysis, whereas in the latter case, it lies on interviews, questionnaires, statistics, and participant observation.

Module: Classical theories in religious studies, 7.5 credits

The aim of this module is for the student to develop and deepen their knowledge of theoretical traditions and critical approaches to material used in religious studies. A very important aspect of this is to provide insights into the historical development of the subject and its position in society and in the history of ideas.

Module: Degree project, 15 credits

The main focus of this module is the writing and defence of an independent project adhering to research conventions and conventions for academic writing. The student is expected to formulate a research problem and compile and critically review material, with the support of their supervisor. In addition to this, the student is furthermore expected to constructively and critically discuss fellow students' project drafts, and to review and critically discuss a fellow student's final draft at a final seminar (Swedish "opposition").

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, group exercises and supervision throughout the course. There are also written and oral assignments.

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 communicated in writing when the course starts. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction for the entire course, the student must have received this grade for at least 22.5 credits, including the Independent project.

Methodology in religious studies is examined through

1. seminar assignments
2. written hand-in assignments.

Classical theories in religious studies is examined through

1. seminar assignments
2. written hand-in assignments.

Degree project is examined through

1. a written independent project
2. peer-review and discussion of an independent project (Swedish "opposition")
3. seminar assignments.

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 should be 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

Module: Methodology in religious studies, 7.5 credits

Alvehus, Johan. *Problemformulering*, Studentlitteratur, Lund, the latest edition, 102

pages.

Asprem, Egil & Sundqvist, Olof (eds). *Religionshistoria: en introduktion till teori och metod*, Studentlitteratur, Lund, the latest edition (in selection, ca 200 pages).

Gustavsson, Martin & Svanström, Yvonne (eds), *Metod: guide för historiska studier*, Studentlitteratur, Lund, the latest edition. 150 pages.

Kajiser, Lars & Öhlander, Magnus (eds). *Etnologiskt fältarbete*, Studentlitteratur, the latest edition (in selection, ca 150 pages).

Lantz, Björn. *Den statistiska undersökningen*, Studentlitteratur, the latest edition. 194 pages.

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

Module: Classical theories in religious studies, 7.5 credits

Asprem, Egil & Sundqvist, Olof (eds). *Religionshistoria: en introduktion till teori och metod*, Studentlitteratur, Lund, the latest edition (in selection, ca 100 pages).

Boyer, Pascal, *Religion explained: the human instincts that fashion gods, spirits and ancestors*, Vintage, London, the latest edition (in selection, 250 pages.)

Douglas, Mary. *Purity and danger*, Routledge, the latest edition, 180 pages.

Eliade, Mircea. *Heligt och profant*, Daidalos, the latest edition, 170 pages.

Lincoln, Bruce. *Holy Terrors: Thinking about Religion after September 11*, University of Chicago Press, the latest edition, 140 pages.

Additional working material and articles of 150 pages. Provided on the course learning platform.

Module: Degree project, 15 credits

Lindstedt, Inger. *Forskningens hantverk*, Studentlitteratur, Lund, the latest edition, 315 pages.

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