



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

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2016

### **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,
- 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,
- 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, 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, 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.

### ***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,
- write a review of a monograph in the empirical area of specialisation,
- independently prepare and conduct a lecture based on their in-depth knowledge of their empirical area of specialisation.

### ***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 a method(s), theory(ies) or theoretical perspective(s) relevant for 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 four modules:

### ***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.

### ***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.

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.

### ***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.

### **Type of Instruction**

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, group exercises and supervision. The teacher informs the students about compulsory parts of the teaching. 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 20 credits, including the Independent project.

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 or in groups, and documentation of these

In-depth subject studies is examined through:

1. A review of a selection of literature
2. Preparation and oral presentation of a short lecture on the basis of the chosen literature

Independent project is examined through:

1. A written independent project
2. Opposition of an independent project

### 3. Active participation in seminars

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)

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. (in selection, ca 100 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

Kaijser, 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.

***Independent project, 15 credits***

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

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