



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 2017-08-30 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2017

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, 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

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 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 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 focuses on two research traditions. The humanitiestradiation focuses on historiography, textual analysis, image analysis, rhetoric and semiotics. The social sciencestradiation focuses on methods such as interviewing, 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 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

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

Course evaluations 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 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 the latest English edition. 242 p.

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.

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.