



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

2RK60Ä Religionsvetenskap III - teori och metod, för ämneslärare,
61-75 hp, 15 högskolepoäng

Study of Religions III - for Secondary School Subject Teachers, 61-
75 hp, 15 credits

Main field of study

Religious Studies

Subject

Religious Studies

Level

First cycle

Progression

G2F

Date of Ratification

Approved 2024-01-02.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2024.

Prerequisites

1RK20Ä Religious studies I – for upper secondary school teachers, 1–30 credits, and
1RK40Ä Religious studies II – for upper secondary school teachers, 31–60 credits, or
the equivalent.

Objectives

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

- evaluate subject-didactic positions in relation to the fields of practice that the course prepares for, based on current research
- critically process, evaluate, summarise, and present theoretical and methodological religious studies literature, and actively participate in a religious

- studies method and theory discussion, using clear arguments
- critically discuss the teacher's role in relation to current research in the subject and its didactics.

Module 1: Methods in religious studies, 7.5 credits

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

- formulate clear research questions about relevant problems in the field of religious studies
- evaluate different religious studies methods in relation to different research questions and types of empirical material
- propose and apply methods for collecting and processing material relevant to issues in the fields of religious studies and religious education.

Module 2: Theories in religious studies, 7.5 credits

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

- identify and name historically influential figures within humanities- and social science-oriented religious studies, and describe their contributions to the development of the field
- outline the key developments in the subject of religion
- discuss the relationship between theoretical developments in religious studies, general societal changes, and changes in the school subject of religion
- independently analyse and present theoretical religious studies literature, both orally and in writing, and relate the content of this literature to teaching in the subject of religion
- apply religious studies theories.

Content

Module 1: Methods in religious studies, 7.5 credits

The student acquires knowledge of methodological considerations and analytical techniques that is advanced relative to previous levels of progression. The course is based on methodological principles for the collection and analysis of subject-didactic material, which are put into practice through practical exercises.

The module discusses methods and methodological considerations within two scholarly traditions: the humanities and the social sciences. In the exploration of the humanities tradition, the emphasis is on historiography and text and image analysis. The examination of social science traditions focuses on interviews, surveys, statistics, and participant observation.

Module 2: Theories in religious studies, 7.5 credits

The student acquires knowledge of theoretical traditions that is advanced relative to previous levels of progression, and apply and critically evaluate theories in the field of religious studies. Great emphasis is placed on the students' gaining insights into the changes in the subject's history of science and its intellectual and societal contexts. The historical development and role of the school subject of religion in society are examined through a critical analysis of syllabuses and subject syllabuses.

Professional, subject-didactic, and scholarly progression

The modules elaborate on theoretical and methodological aspects of religious studies

relative to previous levels of progression, including practical application of both theories and methods. Both modules have an increased theoretical and methodological focus on subject didactics compared to previous levels of progression, including an added element of practical application and evaluation of theories in the field of religious studies. Changes in the school subject of religion and its role in society are analysed.

Type of Instruction

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

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Both modules are examined through written hand-in assignments and oral seminar assignments.

In order to receive a Pass, the student must meet the course objectives. Grading criteria for a Pass with Distinction will be provided in writing when the course starts. In order to receive a Pass with Distinction for the entire course, the student must have received this grade for both modules.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University's Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels. In the event that a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

Course Evaluation

Course evaluation should be conducted during or shortly after the course. The results and analysis should be promptly communicated to those who have taken the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:
2RKÄ02 Study of Religions III - for Upper Secondary School Teachers, 15 credits

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Module: Methods 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, approx. 200 pages).

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

Kaijser, 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: 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, approx. 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.

General subject-didactic reading

In both modules, articles from the following online journals will be used (available via the University Library):

British journal of religious education

International journal of education and religion

Religious education

Teaching theology and religion

Which articles to read will be specified by the teacher, or, alternatively, determined by the student in consultation with the teacher.