



Course syllabus

Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Cultural Sciences

4RK40E Religionsvetenskap, magisterkurs, 30 högskolepoäng
Religious Studies, advanced course, 30 credits

Main field of study

Religious Studies

Subject Group

Religious Studies

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1E

Date of Ratification

Approved by the Board of the School of Cultural Sciences 2009-06-16

Revised 2010-06-17. English translation added.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2011

Prerequisites

Religious Studies 90 credits including an independently produced written project comprised of at least 15 credits as well as Swedish B and English A or the equivalent.

Expected learning outcomes

Expected learning outcomes for the entire course

On completion of the course, students, with a high degree of independence, should be able to:

- estimate the applicability and relevance of methods and theories within the field of religious studies;
- choose, cultivate and present information on central research within a specific empirical field;
- produce an academic religious studies text in the form of an essay;
- confidently make use of digital tools for the efficient retrieval of information.

Expected learning outcomes for module 1, *Literature of Current Interest in Religious Studies*, 10 credits

On completion of this module, students, with a high degree of independence, should be able to:

- identify current trends in international religious studies' theoretical and methodological discussions;

- critically evaluate a selection of methods and theories from the field of religious studies;
- apply, with certainty, a selection of methods and theories from the field of religious studies.

Expected learning outcome for module 2, *Specialised subjects II*, 5 credits

On completion of this module, students, with a high degree of independence, should be able to:

- with the help of modern information technology, identify international research from within a specific empirical field;
- independently, and with a clearly critical and analytical attitude, collect information within a defined empirical field;
- both verbally and in writing, and in an academic and reliable way, compile and present to others information within a defined empirical field.

Expected learning outcomes for module 3, *Essay*, 15 credits

On completion of this module, students, with a high degree of independence, should be able to:

- with intimate knowledge of earlier research, identify a religious studies problem;
- gather, evaluate and, from a religious studies perspective, cultivate data, as well as compiling and presenting the results in a text of such quality that it could be published in a religious studies context.
- independently, and with regard taken to existing research, evaluate another student's independent work according to the criteria for publication in a religious studies context (peer-review)

Content

The course contains the following modules:

Module 1 Literature of current interest in religious studies 10 credits

This module contains a guide to current religious studies' debates and religious studies' controversies. The module focuses on a choice of knowledge of interest, theoretical considerations, methodological difficulties, stringent analysis and logical conclusions. This module also includes a historical background to the different dominating research traditions.

Module 2 Specialized subjects II 5 credits

During the course of this module, students will perform deeper studies in one of the following empirical fields:

1. Ancient religions
2. Judaism
3. Christianity
4. Islam
5. Hinduism
6. Buddhism
7. Eastern Asia's religions
8. Traditional religions in America, Africa and Oceania
9. New religious movements and the New Age Movement

Students are not allowed to choose the same empirical field that they chose in 2RK30E or GI1203.

Module 3 Nytt 15 credits

This module, in relation to earlier levels of progression, involves deeper training in critical

and analytical reading, in formulating a scientific problem and finding relevant literature within the subject field. The finished product should be a scientific, written, work. During seminars, students should constructively and critically discuss each others scientific texts. Students should be quite familiar with the research front within the subject of their essay. The objective of the course is for students to be able to produce a text that could be published in a scientific journal. This module also requires students to examine and oppose another student's text. The opposition will take the form of a simulated peer-review.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is in the form of lectures, seminars and group work, as well as supervision. The teacher will determine which components of the course are mandatory. Written and/or oral assignments are a part of the course.

Examination

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

In order to pass the course, students need to meet the expected learning outcomes. Examination occurs through written and oral exams, continuous assessments, oral presentations and handing in of written assignments. In order to receive the grade pass with distinction for the entire course, students need to have passed 20 credits with the grade pass with distinction.

Students who do not hand in assignments on time will fail the course.

A resit is offered within six weeks (within the framework of regular terms) and the number of resits is limited to five (in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance 6 chap. 21§).

Course Evaluation

Course evaluation is carried out at the end of the course. The evaluation is compiled, reviewed with the students and archived according to departmental protocol.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

List of references Module 1 - Literature of current interest in religious studies 10 hec

Literature is chosen in consultation with examiners from the following list:

Anthropology

Alvarsson, Jan-Åke (utg.) *The missionary process*, Studia Missionalia Svecana, 214 pages. Latest edition.

Bowen, John Richard *Religions in practice: an approach to the anthropology of religion*, Pearson, 288 pages. Latest edition.

King, Barbara J. *Evolving God: a provocative view of the origins of religion*. Doubleday, 272 pages. Latest edition.

Kreinath, Jens, Snoek, Joannes Augustinus Maria & Stausberg, Michael (red.) *Theorizing rituals: issues, topics, approaches, concepts*. Brill, 778 pages. Latest edition.

Inda, Jonathan Xavier & Renato Rosaldo (red) *The anthropology of globalisation. A Reader*. Blackwell, 496 pages. Latest edition.

Stein, Rebecca L. & Stein, Philip L. *The anthropology of religion, magic, and witchcraft*. Boston, 304 pages. Latest edition.

Warms, Richard L., Garber, James & McGee, R. Jon (red.) *Sacred realms: readings in the anthropology of religion*. Oxford University Press, 496 pages. Latest edition.

Archaeology

Dever, William G. *Did God have a wife?: archaeology and folk religion in ancient Israel*, Eerdmans, 344 pages. Latest edition.

Jennbert, Kristina, Anders Andrén & Catharina Raudvere (red.). *Old Norse religion in a long term perspective. Origins, changes, and interaction*. Nordic Academic Press, 416 pages. Latest edition.

Whitley, David S. & Hays-Gilpin, Kelley (red.) *Belief in the past. Theoretical approaches to the archaeology of religion*. Left Coast Press, 288 pages. Latest edition.

Philosophy/Theology

Davis, Creston, Milbank, John & Slavoj Žižek (red.) *Theology and the political: The new debate*. Duke University Press, 496 pages. Latest edition.

Derrida, Jacques & Gianni Vattimo *Religionen*. Anthropos, 219 pages. Latest edition.

von Essen, Johan *Om det ideella arbetets betydelse. En studie om människors livsåskådningar*. Avhandling. Uppsala universitet. 2008. 300 pages.

Habermas, Jürgen *Mellan naturalism och religion*. Daidalos, 167 pages. Latest edition.

Jensen, Jeppe Sinding (red.) *Det er religion – en historisk mosaik*. Gad, 192 pages. Latest edition.

Martinson, Mattias *Postkristen teologi. Experiment och tydningsförsök*. Glänta produktion, 272 pages. Latest edition.

Sigurdson, Ola & Svenungsson, Jayne (red.) *Postmodern teologi: en introduktion*, Verbum, 284 pages. Latest edition.

History/ Ethnology/ Philology

Lincoln, Bruce *Religion, empire, and torture: The case of Achaemenian Persia, with a postscript on Abu Ghraib*. University of Chicago Press, 192 pages. Latest edition.

Mettinger, Tryggve *The Eden narrative. A literary and religio-historical study of Genesis 2–3*. Eisenbrauns, 165 pages. Latest edition.

Raudvere, Catharina *Kunskap och insikt i norrön tradition. Mytologi, ritualer och trolldomsanklagelser*. Nordic Academic Press, 226 pages. Latest edition.

Smith, Jonathan Z. *Drudgery divine: On the comparison of early Christianities and the religions of Late Antiquity*. University Of Chicago Press, 160 pages. Latest edition.

Zipes, Jack *Breaking the magic spell. Radical theories of folk and fairy tales*. University of Kentucky, 256 pages. Latest edition.

Gender/Ethnical/Cultural studies

Egnell, Helene *Other voices. A study of Christian feminist approaches to religious plurality East and West*, 329 pages. Latest edition.

Fawcett, Liz *Religion, ethnicity, and social change* [Elektronisk resurs]
Basingstoke, 238 pages. Latest edition.

King, Ursula & Tina Beattie *Gender, religion, and diversity*. Continuum International Publishing Group, 288 pages. Latest edition.

Mahmood, Saba *Politics of piety: the Islamic revival and the feminist subject*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 233 pages. Latest edition.

Raudvere, Catharina *The book and the roses: Sufi women, visibility and zikr in contemporary Istanbul*. I. B. Tauris, 284 pages. Latest edition.

Psychology/Cognitive Research

Boyer, Pascal *Religion explained*. Vintage, 448 pages. Latest edition.

Zizek, Slavoj *The puppet and the dwarf: The perverse core of Christianity*. Short circuits, 196 pages. Latest edition.

Sociology/Politology

Bruce, Steve *God is dead: Secularization in the West*. Blackwell, 269 pages. Latest edition.

Coleman, Simon *The globalisation of charismatic Christianity: spreading the gospel of prosperity*. Cambridge University Press, 276 pages. Latest edition.

Juergensmeyer, Mark *Global rebellion: religious challenges to the secular state, from Christian militias to Al Qaeda*,
Rev. ed., University of California Press, 384 pages. Latest edition.

Raschke, Carl A. *GloboChrist: the great commission takes a postmodern turn*. Baker Academic, 176 pages. Latest edition.

Stark, Rodney *What Americans really believe: new findings from the Baylor surveys of religion*. Baylor University Press, 200 pages. Latest edition.

Theory of Science/Ethics of Science

Capps, Walter H. *Religious studies : The making of a discipline*. Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 396 pages. Latest edition.

Rune Larsson & Caroline Gustavsson (ed.) *Towards a European perspective on religious education*, 366 pages. Latest edition.

McCutcheon, Russel T *Critics not caretakers. Redescribing the public study of religion*. State University of New York Press, 121 pages. Latest edition.

List of references Module 2 - Specialized subjects II 5 hec

Literature is chosen in consultation with examiners.

List of references Module 3 - Nytt 15 hec

To assist in the writing of the essay, the following link will be used:
uppsats.pbworks.com