



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Cultural Sciences

4RK435 Religiösa och kulturella traditioner i mötet mellan Europa och Asien, 15 högskolepoäng

Religious Traditions and Cultural Memory at the Crossroads of Europe and Asia, 15 credits

### **Main field of study**

Religious Studies

### **Subject Group**

Religious Studies

### **Level of classification**

Second Level

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2014-10-06  
The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2015

### **Prerequisites**

Degree of Bachelor of Arts. English B/English 6.

## Objectives

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

- critically, independently and creatively formulate research questions concerning religious and cultural traditions as a result of the meeting between the East and the West from ancient history to modern times, focusing on sacred places, rituals and Istanbul as a meeting place for religions,
- answer their own research questions in writing,
- analyse empirical evidence from different time periods,
- apply theories on material relevant for the course, focusing specifically on theories concerning gender, ethnicity and class.

## Content

The course covers religious and cultural traditions, focusing on Istanbul and Asia Minor, from ancient history until today.

This course is mainly intended for students within the humanities, religious studies and social sciences, but welcomes anyone with a Bachelor's Degree and an interest in religious and cultural traditions.

The course provides a nuanced view on religious continuity from ancient history to

modern times. The course discusses ancient and modern religions in the eastern parts of the Mediterranean region, focusing on Asia Minor. Istanbul and areas in western Turkey form the bases of case studies within the three main themes in the course: Sacred places – cult and trading centres in Anatolia through time, Fundamental rituals in society and their survival, and Istanbul as a religious meeting place.

The course aims to view religious and cultural manifestations from a broad perspective, and discusses the underlying economic and social aspects that have created and that support cults and myths. The course discusses how physical environments affect cult centres and how religion is intertwined with cultural, political and social phenomena in different time periods, and the traditions and rituals that determine our lives, our societal behaviour and our views on families. Through the course's clear connection to and visits to sacred places, the students acquire knowledge about practical manifestations of cults in the past by studying archaeological relics, and knowledge about practical manifestations of cults today by studying religious meeting places used today and the modern tourism and pilgrim industry.

The course includes an introduction to the history of Istanbul and Anatolia, and the religious conditions in the areas.

The project is presented in English in an international workshop at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul. By participating in the workshop in Istanbul, the students learn how to present their work concisely, defend and discuss it in an international research environment, and network in an international research community. The course assignment is presented in the workshop in Istanbul in connection to a ten-day excursion to Turkey, including educational visits in Istanbul and a major excursion to Troy, Pergamon, Ephesus and Izmir.

The teaching team supervises and supports the students concerning content, theories, methods and practical solutions. The part of the course conducted in Turkey is arranged in collaboration with the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul.

All teaching, the workshop and the excursion are compulsory.

### Type of Instruction

Teaching is in the form of web-based supervision, participation in an international workshop in Istanbul and excursions. All teaching, the workshop and the excursion are compulsory.

All teaching is in English, but under certain conditions supervision in Swedish may be offered.

### Examination

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

- The course is examined through a project, two oral presentations, and a memorandum (a reflection on the student's own performance in the workshop and excursions in Turkey). More detailed information can be found in the course description.
- Written grading criteria are communicated to the student when the course starts.
- In order to receive a final grade for the course as a whole, the student must have received at least the grade of Pass on all examination assignments, and participated in all compulsory parts of the course. Under certain circumstances, the student may not have to participate in all compulsory parts of the teaching. This is decided by the examiner in consultation with the teacher responsible for the course. The student may have to hand in an assignment in compensation for

what he or she has missed. Criteria for the final grade based on the individual examination parts are specified in the grading criteria.

- Each semester this course is provided, there must be at least two opportunities for examination. At least one opportunity for examination must also be provided during semesters or years when the course is not taught. Students who have received at least the grade of Pass cannot participate in retake examinations to receive a higher grade. Students who have received the grade of Fail on examinations twice in a row by the same examiner, are entitled to another examiner for the next examination, unless there are certain reasons against this. A request for this must be submitted to the head of department.
- A student who has received the grade of Fail, may take a supplementary examination, if the examiner thinks that the student is close to receiving the grade of Pass. The assignment must be submitted within a week after the student has been informed by the examiner about the supplementary examination.

## Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted and compiled into a report, which is made available to students. The report is presented to institutional bodies and the programme council concerned, and is archived by the institution responsible for the course.

## Other

The course is provided within USI (Universities and Swedish Institutes in Collaboration for Internationalization), <http://www.usi-master.se/>, in collaboration with Stockholm University, Istanbul University and the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul.

The course includes an independent project, a course assignment and a memorandum with reflections on an excursion. During the first few weeks of the course, teaching and supervision is web-based.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

### Required Reading

Cameron, Averil *Byzantine Matters*. Princeton, 164 p. Latest edition.

Parker, Robert *On Greek religion*. Oxford, 309. Latest edition.

Raudvere, Catharina *The book and the Roses: Sufi Women, Visibility and Zikir in Contemporary Istanbul* London, 248 p. Latest edition.

Roller, Lynn *In Search of God the Mother: The Cult of Anatolian Cybele* Berkeley & Los Angeles. 365 p. Latest edition.

Silverstein, Brian *Islam and modernity in Turkey* New York, 269p. Latest edition.

Stanley Spaeth, Barbetta. (ed.) *The Cambridge companion to ancient Mediterranean religions* Cambridge. , 367 p. Latest edition (selection).

Stone, Norman *Turkey: A short history* London, 192p. Latest edition.

Additional literature chosen in consultation with the teacher, 500 pages.

### Additional Study Material

Ogden, Daniel (ed.) *A Companion to Greek Religion*, Oxford.

Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum (ThesCRA) 2005-, Los Angeles.

Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean' (Electronic resource) available at:

[http://www.philipharland.com/links.html#ANCIENT\\_HISTORY\\_AND\\_RELIGIONS\\_%28GREEK,\\_ROMAN,\\_ANCIENT\\_NEAR\\_EASTERN%29](http://www.philipharland.com/links.html#ANCIENT_HISTORY_AND_RELIGIONS_%28GREEK,_ROMAN,_ANCIENT_NEAR_EASTERN%29)

*New Cambridge history of Islam 6 volumes*