



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

4RK455 Religionsmöten i kolonial kontext, historiska perspektiv, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Religious Encounters in Colonial Contexts, Historical Approaches, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Colonial and postcolonial studies, Religious Studies

Subject Group

Religious Studies

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2020-05-07

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2021

Prerequisites

90 credits including an independent project of 15 credits in a subject in the humanities or the social sciences or the equivalent, English B/English 6, or the equivalent.

Objectives

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

- describe the historical background and typical features of missionary work in the colonized world,
- critically discuss and explain the outcomes of missionary encounters in colonial contexts,
- describe the impact of missionary activity on a few indigenous religions, with special attention paid to the rise of revitalization movements,
- relate area specific features to world-wide patterns of religious encounters during the relevant period.

Content

The main focus of the course is on the various encounters between the religions of colonial empires and indigenous religious traditions. The content of the course revolves around detailed empirical knowledge about specific confrontations, dialogues, conversions, and counterreactions in the colonial world, as well as around scholarly efforts to generalize and identify recurrent patterns. Close attention is paid to theological motivations, proselyting strategies, and life stance outcomes of specific missionary work, as well as to the shifting theological responses and counterstrategies of indigenous faiths.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, discussion seminars and supervision. The language of instruction is English.

Examination

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

The course is examined through written assignments and oral seminar assignments. Retake examination is offered in the form of a written assignment or another assignment determined by the examiner. The grade A is the highest grade and the grade E is the lowest grade for passing the course. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as failed. Grading criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the student in writing when the course/module starts, at the latest.

If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted exam or allow the student to conduct the exam in an alternative form.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Chidester, David. *Empire of Religion: Imperialism and Comparative Religion*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 377 pages. (Latest edition)

Sharkey, Heather J. (ed.) *Cultural Conversions: Unexpected Consequences of Christian Missionary Encounters in the Middle East*. Syracuse: Syracuse Univ. Press. 328 pages. (Latest edition)

Stanley, Brian. *The Bible and the Flag: Protestant Missions and British Imperialism in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. Leicester: Apollos. 212 pages. (Latest edition)

Stanley, Brian, ed. *Missions, Nationalism and the End of Empire*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 313 pages. (Latest edition)