



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

ARKN16, Peoples of the Books - Islamic and Jewish Culture in Medieval Europe, 7.5 credits

*Böckernas Folk - islamisk och judisk kultur i medeltidens Europa,
7,5 högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2017-09-11 to be valid from 2017-09-11, spring semester 2018.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of studies

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for the study of medieval Islamic and Jewish material culture in Europe
- identify, describe and analyse the material culture expressing Islamic and Jewish identities in medieval Europe
- identify and provide examples of social and cultural processes within and between Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities in medieval Europe, and analyse them

- account for and analyse examples of immaterial cultural heritage that have emerged out of Islamic and Jewish intellectual environments in medieval Europe

Competence and skills

- apply key concepts and theories for the study of migration and minority communities in the Middle Ages from a transnational perspective
- identify and analytically compare the material culture of the three Abrahamic religions
- use and analyse theoretical concepts such as social identity and hybridity

Judgement and approach

- critically reflect on and assess in writing the effects of the structuring and changeable processes that determined the relations between majority and minority communities in the period
- critically discuss their own theoretical perspective on the topics of the course

Course content

The present second-cycle course deals with the medieval material culture based on remains of Islamic, Christian and Jewish groups in Europe. It is designed as online literature study, discussions and accounts of medieval remains from a field trip to Sicily. Among the topics highlighted are Scandinavian contacts with the Mediterranean, import of documents and ideas from Islamic areas to Sweden, Jewish settlements in Central Europe, the Scandinavian reception of the image of Jews, and communality and conflict in the Byzantine-Islamic Sicily and southern Italy. The course involves the history of ideas, social anthropology, human geography, history, history of art, history of religions, archaeology, classical archaeology and ancient history and historical archaeology.

A key topic of the course is the relationship between conflict and integration, based on perspectives of heterogeneity and negotiation. Differences and similarities in and between groups of Christian, Muslims and Jews are stressed, and also employed as perspectives to counteract essentialisation of different cultural identities. At the same time, the course highlights processes of structuring and preservation that are included in deliberate choices of identity.

Theoretically, the course touches on transnational historiography and "histoire croisée" as perspectives. The attention is directed towards interaction over large areas, also ones that at a first glance might seem far removed from one another. "Histoire croisée" can be roughly described as an interplay between empirical data and perspectives based in different historical contexts. The perspective is moved from a general global history and discourse of cultural encounters to an approach of contextual methodology.

Course design

The course is a collaboration between the universities in Uppsala, Stockholm and Lund and the Swedish Institute in Rome, and includes students from the three universities. The course consists of part-time studies during 10-12 weeks, including a stay in Sicily of 7-10 days. The teaching is provided through an online forum and consists of lectures and seminars, and a study trip to Sicily. Some of the lectures take place during the study trip, and the students also present delimited assignments in this period. The costs for the study trip to Sicily are mainly covered by the Faculties of Humanities and Theology at Lund University for the students admitted there.

Assessment

The assessment is based on 1-2 papers linked to the required reading in view of the study trip, reports including field analyses from Sicily, and a final major paper.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

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Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor's degree in the history of ideas, social anthropology, human geography, history, history of art, history of religions, archaeology, classical archaeology and ancient history, or historical archaeology..

The selection is also based on a written motivation letter of one page that is to be appended to the application. The letter is to describe the applicant's previous university studies, how the course will enrich and reinforce the other studies of the student, and why the applicant wants to take the course. Both previous study results and the motivation letter will be used as selection criteria for the course.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Lund University.
2. It is a collaboration with Uppsala University, Stockholm University and the Swedish Institute in Rome within the scope of the network Universities and Swedish Institutes Cooperating for Internationalisation (USI). www.usinetwork.se
3. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current application information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in ARKN16, Peoples of the Books - Islamic and Jewish Culture
in Medieval Europe

Applies from V18

1701 People of the Books, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction