



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

**RHBM68, History of Religions and Religious Behavioural  
Science: History of Religions - Master's (120 credits) Thesis,  
15 credits, 15 credits**

*Religionshistoria och religionsbeteendevetenskap: Religionshistoria -  
examensarbete för masterexamen, 15 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2014-08-14 and was last revised on 2014-12-18 by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology. The revised syllabus applies from 2015-01-19, spring semester 2015.

### General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It is included as an elective component of the Master's programme in Religious Studies and Theology specialising in the History of Religions and Religious Behavioural Science. The course can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

*Language of instruction:* English

The course is normally taught in English. It can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the teacher and the students.

*Main field of studies*

Religious Studies and Theology with  
specialization in History of Religions and  
Religious Behavioural Studies

*Depth of study relative to the degree  
requirements*

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree  
project for Master of Arts/Master of  
Science (120 credits)

### Learning outcomes

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

### Knowledge and understanding

- in an independent project demonstrate both broad knowledge of the field of religious studies and specialised knowledge of specific issues in the history of religions
- discuss and actively participate in current research debates within the history of religions
- discuss and critically evaluate methods in the history of religions

### **Competence and skills**

- highly independently apply and query methods of relevance to the history of religions
- formulate research issues and integrate knowledge in independent arguments in order to creatively analyse, judge and manage complex research material in the history of religions
- independently delimit, plan and carry out an extensive research assignment within the history of religions
- in speech and writing and in dialogue with others, report, discuss and judge advanced problems and solutions in the history of religions during a research process
- independently write an academic paper in the history of religions featuring the established apparatus and a sophisticated academic style
- defend and constructively review an extensive paper

### **Judgement and approach**

- assess their own and others' findings within the history of religions with regard to relevant, disciplinary, societal and ethical aspects
- assess the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used
- in speech and writing identify their need of further knowledge in the field of religious studies

### **Course content**

In the course, students gain practice in writing an independent research paper and critically reviewing their own and others' research projects. Focus is placed on the independent production of a research paper.

In consultation with the supervisor, the student defines a topic and identifies relevant issues and previous research of importance. This process is to be based on the knowledge and skills acquired by the student on previous courses. In parallel with independent studies, the student is to participate in research seminars or advanced studies seminars, if such are offered.

The writing of the paper generally starts with an inventory of issues and previous research, and is based on a short account written by the student of the issues, methods, hypotheses and outline of the paper. Throughout the work on the project, the student and supervisor discuss individual sections with the aim of gradually shaping the paper as a whole.

The finished paper is to be presented and defended at the research seminar or advanced studies seminar. In this context, the student is to orally present the main content and argument of the paper and respond to critical questions from the appointed reviewer (see below) and other seminar participants. The student is also to critically review the project of a fellow student in accordance with specific instructions. The emphasis is placed on the student's ability to discuss the contents and key arguments of the paper, but also the apparatus to some extent.

## Course design

The teaching consists of participation in seminars and individual supervision.

## Assessment

The assessment is based on the students' presentation and defence of their paper and critical review of a fellow student's paper at a research seminar or advanced studies seminar.

In order for a paper to be presented, it must be designed in accordance with the supervisor's instructions and, unless an exemption has been granted by the examiner, not exceed 145 000 characters including spaces. An examiner who finds that a paper to be presented will be failed can decide that the assessment is to be postponed.

The grade is to be based on the paper, the student's presentation at the seminar and critical review of a fellow student's paper. Following the defence seminar, the examiner makes a preliminary assessment of how well the learning outcomes have been met. The student will then be given a week to edit the paper, whereupon the examiner will determine the grade.

Passed degree projects at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology can be registered in the LUP Student Papers database if the student so wishes. The student is responsible for uploading the passed degree project as a PDF file in LUP student papers.

*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.

The grades awarded are Fail, Pass or Pass with Distinction.

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, the student must have passed the following courses in the history of religions and religious behavioural science: History of Religions- Second Cycle Course II, 15 credits (RHBR48) History of Religions- Master's (60 credits) Degree Project, 15 credits (RHBM58), or the equivalent.

## Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University
2. The course replaces REVM68.
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.
4. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in RHBM68, History of Religions and Religious Behavioural  
Science: History of Religions - Master's (120 credits) Thesis, 15 credits

Applies from H14

1401 History of Religions - Master's (120 credits) Thesis, 15 cre, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction