



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **RHIA12, History of Religions: Level 1, 30 credits**

*Religionshistoria: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng*

First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2015-03-17 to be valid from 2015-08-31, autumn semester 2015.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

It can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish

*Main field of studies*

History of Religions

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

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

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- identify and account for different societal, cultural and historical perspectives on religion
- provide a general account of the historical emergence and basic tenets, practices and texts of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and the traditions of aboriginal peoples
- describe the basic features of the old Greek, Roman and Norse religions
- describe and explain the establishment of New Age activities in present-day society and how the central ideas and ritual practices are inspired by and refer to Asian traditions

- exemplify how religion is used as an identity marker and in different present-day manifestations of culture, such as fiction, film and art

### **Competence and skills**

- interpret and analyse religious texts from different eras
- summarise and comment on a scholarly approach to phenomena of religious studies
- distinguish between religious and scientific language use

### **Judgement and approach**

- assess the roles and relations of men and women in religious traditions and religious texts
- take a position on views of religion, faith and religious practice based on an assessment of relevant facts and arguments
- provide a scholarly assessment of the social and cultural importance of religion in the past and present

### **Course content**

The course deals with Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and the religions of aboriginal peoples focusing on the tenets, practices, texts and historical development. The course also introduces a selection of scholarly models used to provide societal, cultural and historical perspectives on religion.

A further area of study is ancient religion, focusing on old Greek, Roman and Norse religions. Key concepts and religious practices are studied, and the present-day significance of the traditions as identity markers and in fiction, film, art or other cultural manifestations is discussed.

The religious ideas and practices manifested by New Age phenomena will also be considered. New Age activities often refer to Asian traditions (mindfulness, yoga) and the course will address this relationship and how it has been affected by the present.

The course consists of five modules:

1. History of Religions I, 6 credits
2. History of Religions II, 6 credits
3. History of Religions III, 3 credits
4. Ancient Religions, 7.5 credits
5. Religions of Asia and New Age, 7.5 credits

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. It is assumed that the student has access to a computer with Internet connection. The department will provide information about the technical requirements.

## Assessment

Module 1 is assessed on the basis of two online repetition exercises and a written exam.

Module 2 is assessed on the basis of a written exam.

Module 3 is assessed on the basis of a written assignment.

Module 4 is assessed on the basis of a research assignment and a final written exam.

Module 5 is assessed on the basis of a final take-home exam.

*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.

To be awarded a grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on all modules.

To be awarded a grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must have been awarded this grade on at least 18 credits and the grade of Pass on the remaining credits.

## Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: History 1 and Social Studies 1 or History A and Social Studies A

## Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
2. Swedish module titles: 1. Religionshistoria I. 2. Religionshistoria II. 3. Religionshistoria III. 4. Antikens och forntidens religiösa liv 5. Asiens religioner och nyandlighet
3. The course replaces RHIA11.
4. 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 registration information and other relevant documentation.

## Subcourses in RHIA12, History of Religions: Level 1

Applies from H15

- 1501 History of Religions I, 6,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1502 History of Religions II, 6,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1503 History of Religions III, 3,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1504 Ancient Religions, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1505 Religions of Asia and New Age, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction