



Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **RHIA24, History of Religions: Religions of Asia and New Age, 7.5 credits**

*Religionshistoria: Asiens religioner och nyandlighet, 7,5  
högskolepoäng*  
**First Cycle / Grundnivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the pro-dean for first-cycle studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2015-03-17 and was 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.

*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**

- describe and explain the emergence and establishment of New Age activities and new religious movements in Swedish late modern society
- describe how central ideas and ritual practices of New Age and new religious movements are often inspired by and refer to Asian traditions
- exemplify how late modern identity formation and self-understanding affect the character of ritual practices

### **Competence and skills**

- analyse in speech and writing and from a critical scholarly perspective the use of basic concepts, key texts and tenets in these religious traditions

### **Judgement and approach**

- distinguish between religious and scholarly terminology,
- critically review, assess and discuss course content and required reading from a gender perspective

### **Course content**

The course deals with some of the religious ideas and practices that form a significant part of present-day New Age phenomena. The emphasis is placed on New Age and different forms of new religious movements which refer to Asian traditions through concepts such as mindfulness, Kundalina Yoga, Reiki, healing, tai chi and feng shui. The course addresses how the activities are inspired by these old traditions while being marked by the present. Furthermore, the tenets and practices and how they have been changed over time and in new cultural and social contexts are discussed.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures and an oral group presentation.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on 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.

### **Entry requirements**

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

### **Further information**

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
2. The course is included as module 5 in the course History of Religions: Level 1 (RHIA12).
3. The course replaces RHIA22.
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.

5. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

## Subcourses in RHIA24, History of Religions: Religions of Asia and New Age

Applies from H15

1501 Religions of Asia and New Age, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction