



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **CTRB58, Interreligious Relations in Istanbul and Beyond: The Role of Religion in Society, State and Secularism, 7.5 credits**

*Interreligious Relations in Istanbul and Beyond: The Role of Religion in Society, State and Secularism, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
**First Cycle / Grundnivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-12-12 (U 2024/870). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-01-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

### **General information**

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a general qualification for both first and second-cycle studies.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and English

*Main field of study*      *Specialisation*

-                      G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

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

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- describe and analyze the complex relationships between religion and state in Istanbul and across various historical and modern settings,
- account for the development of Christianity and Islam in relation to power and public life in the past and the present,
- describe and analyze the relationship between the conceptualization of the categories of ethnicity and religion in historical and contemporary contexts,
- explain the challenges faced by religious minorities in secular and non-secular states,

## Competence and skills

- critically assess the role of religion in public and political spheres across different cultural contexts, using Istanbul as a focal example of interreligious and secular dynamics,
- compare and contrast interreligious dynamics, especially focusing on Christian-Muslim relations,
- identify and evaluate key debates and theories in public and political theology in Christian and Muslim contexts with a particular focus on the Turkish context,
- apply theoretical frameworks of secularism and political theology to the Turkish context,

## Judgement and approach

- reflect critically on how religious communities interact with each other and with political systems,
- evaluate public and political theologies and their impact on shaping both religious and secular public policies,
- consider ethical and theological dimensions of religious coexistence, interreligious dialogue, and minority rights within diverse contexts.

## Course content

The course deals with interreligious relations and the role of religion in society. It offers a multifaceted analysis of the interaction between state structures and religious institutions, with examples from Turkey and other parts of the world. The historical relations of Christianity and Islam with the state are examined, as well as their mutual influence in different periods. The course deals with interreligious relations in general, including the role of religious minorities, as well as issues of diversity and pluralism, with a particular focus on Christian-Muslim relations in historical and contemporary contexts, with examples of both co-operation and conflict.

The course explores the interplay between religion and ethnicity, focusing on how these categories overlap, influence, and reinforce each other. This includes the role of religion in both constructing and challenging forms of racism. Public and political theology is studied in relation to how religious ideas can influence governance and secular politics, while the role of secularism is examined in terms of its impact on religious expression, rights, and social structures. In other words, the course provides a broad and in-depth understanding of how state, religion, and society interact and shape each other in different contexts.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and 3–5 compulsory seminars. Students can make up for missed seminars through written assignments in accordance with the teacher's instructions.

The course includes a study trip to the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, where students will engage in on-site research, discussions, and seminars that provide real-world insights into the themes of the course. The study trip to Istanbul is optional and there is a cost associated with the trip. The students pay for their travel, while the department covers expenses for the stay in Istanbul and local travel arrangements.

## **Assessment**

The course is examined through a written assignment at the end of the course.

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.

## **Grades**

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

## **Entry requirements**

Entry to the course requires that the applicant have at least 60 credits in Religious Studies, Theology, or equivalent.

## **Further information**

- The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
- 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 current registration and information materials.