



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## CTRD13, At the End of the World: Apocalyptic Imagery in the Past and Present, 7.5 credits

*Vid världens slut: Apokalyptiska föreställningar i historia och nutid, 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 2024-12-05 (U 2024/872). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-01-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

### General information

It is offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a general first or second-cycle degree.

Subject: Theology and Religious Studies

*Language of instruction:* Swedish

*Main field of study*      *Specialisation*

-                      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

- be able to give a comprehensive account of the origins and forms of expression of apocalypticism,
- be able to give a comprehensive account of the impact of apocalypticism on society in different periods,
- be able to describe, within a given framework, the use of apocalypticism in politics, rhetoric and the media, as well as its representation in popular culture,

## Competence and skills

- based on given frameworks, apply a comparative perspective to apocalyptic images in different times and contexts,
- be able to analyse the use of apocalyptic motifs in historiography, media reporting, political thought and populist rhetoric,
- be able to argue independently in writing about the term 'apocalyptic' and its use in discussions about, for example, climate, war and disease outbreaks,

## Judgement and approach

- analyse, from a religious studies perspective, apocalyptic beliefs and their impact on social life,
- analyse, from a social science perspective, apocalyptic ideas and their impact on politics, rhetoric and media,
- analyse, from a cultural-historical perspective, apocalyptic beliefs and their impact on popular culture and everyday life.

## Course content

The course uses a religious studies perspective to explore the concept of apocalypticism - a term that refers to dramatic beliefs that the world as we know it is coming to an end. The course takes a long cultural-historical perspective on the emergence and use of apocalyptic motifs and beliefs in different periods of history, particularly in times of political and social unrest such as wars, pandemics and climate change. The course discusses religious and secular interpretations of apocalyptic beliefs, but also ethical dilemmas and existential questions.

The course is thematically divided into three parts. The first deals with apocalyptic ideas and expressions from a religious studies and theological perspective, with a particular focus on the book of Daniel and Revelation. The second deals with apocalypticism from a historical perspective, with a particular focus on its impact on society in times of political and social unrest. The third focuses on the representations and uses of apocalyptic imaginaries in contemporary media reporting and populist rhetoric, with a particular focus on the climate crisis, war and pandemics.

## Course design

The course is offered as a distance learning course and makes use of an online learning platform and digital tools. Students are required to participate under these conditions, and to have access to a computer with an Internet connection. The teaching consists of recorded lectures that are sequentially made available during the course. The lectures and seminars use the required reading as a starting point and are thematically focused on specific issues.

## Assessment

The assessment of the course is based on three written assignments of approximately 2–3 pages each.

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

For the grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade for all three written assignments. For the grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must also have been awarded this grade on at least two of the written assignments.

## Entry requirements

General requirements

## Further information

1. The course is given at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies at Lund University.
2. The number of credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details, see current registration and information materials.