



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

PAND01, The Time of the Plague: Historical and Existential Perspectives on Pandemics, 7.5 credits

Pestens tid: Historiska och existentiella perspektiv på pandemier, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2020-04-29 and was last revised on 2020-05-12. The revised syllabus applies from 2020-05-12, spring semester 2020.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of studies

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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

- provide a general account of the impact of pandemics on society during various historical periods
- provide a general account of existential issues that emerged in different periods in connection with pandemics
- based on given frameworks, account for artistic representations of pandemics in literature, film and other fictitious works

Competence and skills

- based on given frameworks, apply a comparative perspective on pandemics in different times and contexts
- provide a general analysis of several religious studies and ideological models to pandemic outbreaks in history and in present times
- independently discuss in writing artistic representations of pandemics

Judgement and approach

- from a cultural and historical perspective, analyse pandemics and their impact on society
- from a religious studies and ethical perspective, reflect on the different dilemmas that emerge as the result of pandemics
- from a literary or film studies perspective and in connection with historical and religious studies points of view, analyse artistic representations of pandemics

Course content

The course covers Western history in the last millennium, beginning with the Middle Ages with a particular focus on the Black Death in the 14th century. The course therefore applies a long cultural-historical perspective on how pandemics have been interpreted during different periods in history. The course also discusses existential issues, for example, the distribution of blame and responsibility, ethical dilemmas and religious and secular interpretations of pandemics. The course is thematically divided into three parts: the first covers pandemics from a historical perspective with a particular focus on the Black Death, the second looks at epidemics from a religious studies perspective and the third focuses on artistic representations of pandemics in literature and film.

Course design

The course is offered as a distance learning course and makes use of an online learning platform and/or digital tools. Students are required to participate according to these conditions, and to have access to a computer with an internet connection. The department will provide information about the technical requirements.

The teaching consists of recorded lectures that are gradually made available during the course. The lectures 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 3-4 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.

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.

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

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Further information

1. The course is offered at Centre for Theology and Religious Studies and at the Department of History, Lund University.
2. 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 PAND01, The Time of the Plague: Historical and Existential Perspectives on Pandemics

Applies from V20

2001 The Time of the Plague, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction