



LUND
UNIVERSITY

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

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 and was last revised on 2023-02-27. The revised syllabus applies from 2023-03-15, autumn semester 2023.

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 and English

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 seminars.

Assessment

The assessment is based on a final take-home exam.

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.

Entry requirements

General requirements and studies equivalent of the courses History 1b or 1a1+1a2 and Social Studies 1b or 1a1+1a2 from Swedish Upper Secondary School.

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 H23

2301 Religions of Asia and New Age, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Applies from H15

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