



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

RHIB21, History of Religions: Level 2, 30 credits
Religionshistoria: Fortsättningskurs, 30 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-12-03 and was last revised on 2014-11-28 by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology. The revised syllabus applies from 2015-01-19, spring semester 2015.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can be selected as a specialisation course in the Bachelor's programme in Religious Studies and Theology. The course can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish
Some components may be in English.

Main field of studies

Religious Studies and Theology with specialisation in History of Religions and Religious Behavioural Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1F, First cycle, has less than 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

- provide a general account of basic theories and methods of the anthropology of religion
- account for the role of symbols, cosmologies, myths and rituals in both ceremonial and everyday life
- focusing on Sweden, account for the links between migration, globalisation and religion at the levels of individuals, groups and communities with a certain degree of independence

- account for different categories of texts in the history of religions
- describe how religious texts have been preserved and changed throughout history
- provide examples of different forms of ritual use of texts
- describe in general a selection of religio-political expressions and summarise some psychological and sociological explanatory models for these

Competence and skills

- analyse in speech and writing fieldwork in the anthropology of religion through case studies
- analyse religious change with reference to migration and globalisation theories
- discuss in writing and analyse how texts are invested with religious authority
- discuss how religious texts have been interpreted to justify different ideologies and behaviours
- describe, analyse and interpret with a certain degree of independence how religious texts and historical processes are used to sanction political and/or ideological positions and to legitimate life styles
- write a minor research report based on a given issue and use an established system for quotations and references

Judgement and approach

- discern, compare and take a position on religious and scientific terminology
- weigh and assess both religious manifestations in the form of texts and rituals, and the methods and theories of religious studies from the perspectives of power, gender and ethnicity

Course content

The course starts with a study of historically important oral and written texts from different eras and fields of religion, including hymns and mythological and philosophical texts. After that, students are introduced to the anthropology of religion and ethnographic fieldwork, focusing especially on the role of symbols, cosmologies, myths and rituals in ceremonial and everyday life, which is followed by a study of the relationship between religion and migration and globalisation at the levels of individuals, groups and communities in Sweden. The course concludes with a study of the close relationship between religion and politics, focusing partly on fundamentalist groups and partly on the religious contingent in democracy, environment and justice movements.

The course consists of the following modules:

1. Religions and Texts? Tradition and Interpretation, 7.5 credits,
2. Anthropology of Religion, 7.5 credits,
3. Religion and Migration, 7.5 credits,
4. Religion and Politics, 7.5 credits.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. The approximately 3 seminars included in module 2 are compulsory. Students can make up for missed seminars through

written assignments in accordance with the lecturer's instructions.

Assessment

Module 1 is assessed on the basis of a take-home exam.

Module 2 is assessed on the basis of oral reports at the seminars and a final written take-home exam.

Module 3 and 4 are assessed on the basis of written take-home exams in which one assignment on module 4 is to be answered in the form of an academic text conforming to the requirements on quotations and references.

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.

To be awarded the grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on all modules. To be awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on at least three of the modules and a grade of Pass on the remaining ones.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have passed: Religious Studies and Theology, Level 1, 30 credits (CTRA11/CTRD01) or History of Religions, Level 1, 30 credits (RHIA11) or Islamic Studies, Level 1, 30 credits (ISLA11) or Jewish Studies, Level 1, 30 credits (JUDA11) or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course replaces RHIB20.
2. All modules can be read as freestanding courses. Module 3 is also included in RBVB02, and module 4 in RBVB02, ISLB20 and JUDB20.
3. 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.
4. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
5. The module titles in Swedish:
 1. Religionerna och texterna? Tradition och tolkning
 2. Religionsantropologi
 3. Religion och migration
 4. Religion och politik

Subcourses in RHIB21, History of Religions: Level 2

Applies from V14

- 1301 Religions and Texts - Tradition and Interpretation., 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1302 Anthropology of Religions, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1303 Religion and Migration, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1304 Religion and Politics, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction