



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

RHIB36, History of Religions: Anthropology of Religions - Ritual, Myth, Symbol, 7.5 credits

*Religionshistoria: Religionsantropologi - ritual, myt, symbol, 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 2015-12-10 and was last revised on 2022-09-25. The revised syllabus applies from 2022-09-25, spring semester 2023.

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. It can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of studies

History of Religions

Religious Studies and Theology with
specialization 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

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Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- account for some central basic theories and methods within the anthropology of religion
- account for the role of symbols, cosmologies, myths and rites in both ceremonial and everyday life
- account for some classical phenomena of the anthropology of religion such as

possession, witchcraft, shamanism and animism

Competence and skills

- use field studies within the anthropology of religion to describe how religions are embedded within different cultural contexts
- reflect on and present the problem areas of field studies methodology

Judgement and approach

- review and analyse issues of power, gender or ethnicity within the anthropology of religion
- assess the role of self-reflection within the anthropology of religion

Course content

The course addresses the theories and methods of the anthropology of religion to examine how what is referred to as religion in different cultural contexts can be studied and analysed. Accordingly, religious practice is considered in global as well as local environments. The study of religious life as it is documented through anthropological field studies is central to the course. Phenomena such as shamanism, witchcraft and possession are discussed with reference to case studies obtained through field studies and are thereby situated in cultural environments. The role of symbols, cosmologies, myths and rituals in both ceremonial and everyday life is also examined. Among the important questions posed are why people practise rites and how rites have been changed in the modern and individualised society.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminar discussions. Compulsory attendance is required at a seminar in which the students make oral presentations in groups or individually. Absence from this seminar is to be compensated for by a written assignment in accordance with the lecturer's instructions.

Assessment

The assessment is based on a final written assignment.

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

To be admitted to the course, students must have 30 credits within the humanities, social sciences or law.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
2. The course is module 1 of RHIB13.
3. It replaces RHIB25.
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. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in RHIB36, History of Religions: Anthropology of Religions -
Ritual, Myth, Symbol

Applies from V23

2301 Anthropology of Religions - Ritual, Myth, Symbol, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Applies from V16

1501 Anthropology of Religions - Ritual, Myth, Symbol, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction