



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **RHID74, History of Religions: Occultism: Ritual Magic and Radical Transformation., 7.5 credits**

*Religionshistoria: Ockultism: Rituell magi och radikal transformation., 7,5 högskolepoäng*

**First Cycle / Grundnivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2019-03-19 to be valid from 2019-03-19, autumn semester 2019.

### **General Information**

Subject: History of Religions.

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

*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**

- account for the most important occult organisations, their main ideas and practices
- account for occult practices as a form of self-cultivation and passing down of tradition
- account for the manifestations of occult world views in people's everyday lives

### **Competence and skills**

- compare and analyse occult source materials from the past and present based on perspectives of ritual theory and the research area of lived religion

### **Judgement and approach**

- distinguish between intrareligious and scientific models of explanation
- discuss and assess occult practices in relation to class and gender

### **Course content**

The course deals with occult movements from the mid-19th century to the present, focusing on occult practice. While different forms of practice were important for many occult movements, research has tended to focus on world view and dogma. Based on the perspectives of ritual theory and the research area of lived religion, we analyse materials such as ritual instructions, letters and diaries. The students are introduced to basic issues of the anthropology of religion and practise applying them to occult movements. Major emphasis is placed on case studies and concrete examples of how occultism has been practised by individuals and groups.

### **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 under 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 short recorded lectures that introduce and provide a wider context to the themes of the course. Pod conversations present issues that are subsequently addressed in depth and discussed in forum discussions.

### **Assessment**

The course is assessed through three written essays.

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 for university studies in Sweden

### **Further information**

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies at 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 RHID74, History of Religions: Occultism: Ritual Magic and Radical Transformation.

Applies from H19

1902 Occultism: Ritual Magic and Radical Transformation, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction