



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

RHID84, History of Religions: Satanism - A Historical Introduction, 7.5 credits

*Religionshistoria: Satanism - en historisk introduktion, 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 2020-09-10 to be valid from 2020-09-10, spring semester 2021.

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

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 modern form and historical background of satanism
- discuss historical processes and identify the interaction, differences and links between satanism and monotheistic religions
- account for aspects of the significance of popular culture in the emergence and development of satanism
- account for differences and exchanges between satanism as religion and satanism as a conspiracy theory and religious polemic

Competence and skills

- critically examine satanism's link to violence
- problematise the effect of cultural and political movements on the development and emergence of satanism in different periods

Judgement and approach

- problematise gender and minority issues in relation to the history of satanism
- at a basic level, apply perspectives related to alterity, identity and otherness in relation to the historical emergence of satanism and its contemporary form.

Course content

The course provides students with an introduction to modern satanism and its historical background. Ideas on the development of satanism through the history are studied from the perspective that stories of devil worshipping have often functioned as polemic, entertainment and inspiration. Therefore, the course studies the history of satanism as a conspiracy theory, in popular culture and as a self-defined religious movement. The course has a historical perspective. It is divided into three blocks.

The first block starts with a description of ancient and medieval religious movements that have been portrayed in history as satanic or evil and that later also had an effect on historical ideas of satanism. The description of these groups is discussed based on identity-creating perspectives and theories on the need for an enemy and 'the other'.

This leads to the next stage in the course: to present how ideas of satanism have grown in the Western world from the 18th century onwards, and how these ideas finally lead to a self-defined satanism. An important component is to highlight how esoteric and new religious groups have been inspired by caricatures of ancient and medieval heresies.

The third and final block in the course focuses on contemporary Western culture from the 1950s until today. The major specialisations in satanism are studied individually. The importance of popular culture in the development of satanism is analysed and self-defined satanism's link to conspiracy theories about satanic movements. Finally, the development and history of satanism in modern Sweden are presented.

Course design

The course is offered as a distance learning course using a learning platform and/or other 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 introduce and provide a broader context for the themes in the course. Students work actively on study questions during the course. Issues are presented in podcasts that are then discussed in depth on the forum of the learning platform.

Assessment

Assessment of the course is based on three 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.

For the grade of Pass on the course, the student must have been awarded this grade on all assessed components. For the grade of Pass with Distinction on the course, the student must also have been awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction on at least two of the assessed components.

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, 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 RHID84, History of Religions: Satanism - A Historical Introduction

Applies from V21

2101 History of Religions: Satanism - A Historical Introduction, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction