



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

RHIK03, History of Religions: Level 3, 30 credits *Religionshistoria: Kandidatkurs, 30 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 2016-06-09 and was last revised on 2023-03-09. The revised syllabus applies from 2023-03-15, autumn 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 may be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of studies

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

History of Religions

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2E, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in
first-cycle course/s as entry requirements,
contains degree project for BA/BSc

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Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- account for the significance of different rites and the ritual space
- present specialised knowledge of the topic chosen for the degree project in the history of religions
- summarise the current research situation of the chosen issue
- provide a structured account of the most important methods for material and data collection in the field of religious studies

Competence and skills

- discern, formulate and discuss research problems from different perspectives and different methodological traditions
- analyse ritual discourse
- analyse the relationship between the models of rites of practitioners and researchers
- independently identify, formulate and solve an issue of a scholarly nature
- independently choose and apply methods and theories suitable to address an issue
- independently seek, collect, critically interpret and discuss information of relevance to a chosen research assignment
- present, discuss and analyse in writing different positions and arguments in good Swedish or English
- use a system of referencing and bibliographies accepted within the history of religions
- perform a critical review of another student's degree project

Judgement and approach

- assess the significance of rites from perspectives of gender and ethnicity
- make assessments informed by relevant disciplinary, societal and ethical aspects within the field of religious studies
- assess the role of knowledge within religious studies in society and the responsibility of people for how it is used
- assess and specify their need of further knowledge in religious studies

Course content

The first module provides students with an introduction to and exercises in the application of methods used in research in religious behavioural science, philology and the anthropology of religions. The student is also enabled to practise some of these methods in depth. The module enables students to become aware of the importance of methods, issues of research ethics and the choice of a method for a set research assignment.

In the second module, students engage in specialised study of lived religion, focusing on ritual practices, exemplified by rites from different contexts, such as temple rites in Asia, modern goddess rites, rites in Judaism and Islam, the rites of aborigines and new age rites. Among the topics addressed are ritual texts, rites as mediator of traditions, iconography and architecture, the creation of new rites in present-day society, and the significance of rites for cultural and social identity.

In the third module, the student is to produce a Bachelor's degree project. The student chooses the specialisation of the project in consultation with the supervisor. The seminars mainly deal with methodological issues, drafts of papers and completed papers.

The course consists of three modules:

1. Method Course, 7.5 credits,
2. Specialisation, 7.5 credits,
3. Degree Project, 15 credits.

Course design

The teaching in module 1 consists of lectures and seminars.

The teaching in module 2 consists of independent study. This is complemented with lectures and a final compulsory review seminar. Absence is compensated with a written assignment according to the teacher's instructions.

The teaching in module 3 consists of supervision and approximately 6 compulsory seminars. Supervision is normally limited to the semester when the student was first registered on the course. Exceptions can be made if there are special grounds.

Absence is compensated with an assignment according to the teacher's instructions.

Assessment

The assessment of Module 1 is based on a take-home exam of approximately 15 pages.

The assessment of module 2 is based on a take-home exam of approximately 8-10 pages.

Module 3 is examined through a degree project which is defended at a seminar and through the student's critical review of a fellow student's degree project. If there is no degree project to critically review at the time of assessment, the examiner can take a decision to allow the student to produce a written critical review rather than an oral one.

Passed degree projects at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology can be registered in the LUP Student Papers database if the student so wishes. The student is responsible for uploading the passed degree project as a PDF file in LUP student papers.

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.

To be awarded a grade of Pass on the whole course, students must have been awarded this grade on all modules. To be awarded a grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, students must have been awarded this grade on at least 22.5 credits of the course and a grade of Pass on the remaining credits.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, the student must have passed History of Religions and Religious Behavioural Science: Level 2 as well as History of Religions: Level 2 or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund

- University.
2. It replaces RHIK02.
 3. The modules of the course can be taken as freestanding courses. Module 1 corresponds to RHBC13. Module 2 corresponds to RHIC13. Module 3 corresponds to RHIK13.
 4. Swedish module titles: 1. Metodkurs. 2. Fördjupningskurs 3. Examensarbete
 5. 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 RHIK03, History of Religions: Level 3

Applies from H23

- 2301 Method Course, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 2302 Specialisation, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 2303 Degree Project, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Applies from H16

- 1601 Method Course, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1602 Specialisation, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1603 Degree Project, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction