



## DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, HISTORY OF IDEAS, AND RELIGION

### **IL2114 Women and Intellectual Life in Early Modern Europe, 7.5 credits**

Kvinnor och intellektuellt liv i det tidigmoderna Europa, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion on 2019-01-09 to be valid from 2019-01-09, autumn semester of 2019.

*Field of education:* Arts 100%

*Department:* Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is given as a freestanding course at second cycle level.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Critical Studies, Master's Programme (H2KST)

#### *Main field of studies*

History of Science and Ideas

#### *Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

Degree of Bachelor or completed courses of at least 180 credits at first cycle level, of which at least 90 credits with progression in some main field of study where it is included a bachelor's thesis of at least 15 credits. Qualified are also those that have equivalent foreign education or that have equivalent prior knowledge according to earlier study regulation. Applicants must prove knowledge of English: English 5/English A or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS.

#### **Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

- give details about and analyze works by early modern women intellectuals
- give qualified accounts of central philosophical and scientific disputes in early modern times

*Competence and skills*

- critically reflect upon gender aspects and historiographical issues concerning early modern intellectual history
- introduce and conduct a seminar discussion, and also communicate learned insights orally and in writing

*Judgement and approach*

- show consciousness, as well as make independent assessments, regarding ethical questions, dilemmas and choices that research within early modern history of science and ideas can give rise to
- critically reason about questions of power and gender in relation to early modern history

**Course content**

Early Modern Europe (approx. 1500-1800) was marked by fundamental intellectual, social, cultural and religious change. Accordingly, traditional knowledge was challenged by new ideas of nature and culture, body and soul, state and individual, public and private, virtue and vice, knowledge and technology, art and science.

Through close reading and analysis of selected works by early modern women philosophers and writers the course gives a broad as well as nuanced understanding of major intellectual strands in natural, moral and political philosophy in Early Modern Europe. The course addresses questions concerning power, speech and the public sphere in these turbulent times. How was nature, reason, knowledge and perception conceptualized and debated? In which way can we understand the early modern world of passions, love and hate, virtue and vice? What plays of identities were possible and performed? Power, gender and historiographical issues are thus discussed throughout the course. Examples of early modern women intellectuals whose work may be used in the course are Anna Maria van Schurman, Moderata Fonte, Marie de Gournay, Margaret Cavendish, Anne Conway, Émilie du Châtelet, Mary Astell, Mme de Lafayette, Eliza Haywood. Canonical male philosophers, scientists and writers of the period will be added if needed.

### **Form of teaching**

The teaching is normally conducted in the form of lectures and seminars. The seminar discussions demand well-prepared participants with an engagement in reading early modern texts.

#### *Language of instruction:* English

The language of instruction is normally English, but if all students understand Swedish the teacher may use the Swedish instead. Student essays should normally be written in English, but if the teacher understands Swedish it may be used instead.

### **Assessment**

The course is assessed through participation in seminar discussions and through individual written home assignments.

The student is required to retain a copy of home assignments until they are graded and returned. The one who submits a home assignment after the stipulated time has not the right to have it assessed, but must submit it at the next reexamination or obtain a re-examination at another occasion.

For a student who has failed examination, possibility for new test at no more than four occasions is given.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

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For the grade Pass with Distinction the student is required in a particularly productive and critical reflecting way to have shown knowledge and skills in accordance with the learning goals of the course. The seminars are mandatory.

The grade Pass cannot be changed to Failed on the student's request. A student who has passed an examination may not participate in a re-examination for higher grades. The

person concerned has not the right to revoke a submitted examination to avoid grading. The examiner has the possibility to request supplementary student work for the grade Pass. The supplementary assignment should in such cases be communicated to the student in writing and should be completed in the time period specified by the teacher.

**Course evaluation**

The department is responsible for carrying out course evaluations systematically and regularly and for seeing to it that they are compiled in accordance with the regulations for course evaluations at The Department of Literature, History of Ideas and Religion

The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.