



DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, HISTORY OF IDEAS, AND RELIGION

RT2615 Hermeneutics: Theology and the Uses of the Bible, 7.5 credits

Hermeneutik: teologi och bibelbruk, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion on 2019-01-22 and was last revised on 2019-04-23 to be valid from 2019-04-23, autumn semester of 2019.

Field of education: Arts 100%

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

Position in the educational system

This course is given as a freestanding course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master of Theology (H2RTM)

Main field of studies

Religious Studies and Theology

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. Furthermore, knowledge corresponding to English A/English 5 is required.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- give an in-depth account of conditions and possibilities of biblical interpretation in a variety of contexts
- describe various historically significant strategies of interpretation

Competence and skills

- analyze the use of biblical texts in different interpretive communities, both historical and contemporary
- engage in independent interpretations of biblical texts against the background of well-defined and argued methodological and hermeneutical positions

Judgement and approach

- discuss questions concerning responsibility and consequences in relation to the use of the Bible
- evaluate important hermeneutical positions in the contemporary academic interpretation of biblical texts, both in Biblical Studies and in Systematic Theology

Course content

This course studies the interpretation and use of the Bible against the background of hermeneutical theory and theological reflection. It looks at the various contexts in which biblical interpretation takes place and their specific conditions and possibilities.

Particular focus is given to the relation between exegetical methods, historical interpretations, and contemporary applications, as well as to the contested role of the Bible in Systematic Theology. Through a combination of theoretical models and practical work in biblical interpretation, the course prepares students to skillfully handle biblical texts in their own independent research and reflection, and from the perspective of various interpretive communities.

Form of teaching

Teaching is conducted in the form of lectures and/or seminars.

Language of instruction: English

The language of instruction is normally English, but if all students understand Swedish the teacher may use the Swedish instead.

Assessment

The course is assessed through participation in seminar discussion, as well as 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). 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 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.

Additional information

In addition to stated expected learning outcomes, the student in the course should, when relevant, be encouraged to make assessments with regard to gender equality and

equality aspects, as well as to be attentive to ecologically economically and socially sustainable development.