



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

### **RT2316 African Theology and Church Life, 7.5 credits**

Teologi och kyrkoliv i Afrika, 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 2017-07-03 to be valid from 2017-07-03, spring 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 the second cycle level.

*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*

- account for the historical emergence and contemporary context of African Christianity

- understand contemporary expressions of African Christian faith and its interplay with European/American Christianity

#### *Competence and skills*

- express him- or herself orally and in writing in a stringent and linguistically correct way with regard to the themes and problems treated in the course
- demonstrate an understanding of and critically discuss the relationship between theology and policy in the South African context

#### *Judgement and approach*

- analyse the ethical implications of theological arguments and their historical manifestations

### **Course content**

The theme of the course

The centre of the Christian faith is no longer found in the so-called Western world, but in the global south. This course focuses on African Christianity, with a particular emphasis on South Africa. The course treats, for example, the Christian faith's African roots, the influence of the modern missionary movement, the interplay between theology and policy in South Africa, the growth of indigenous churches today, and African perspectives on systematic theology.

#### Study trip

Subject to certain conditions, such as student interest, the course offers the possibility of a study trip to Stellenbosch in South Africa. Through cooperation with the theological faculty at Stellenbosch University, African theology and church life are explored on location, and together with South African teachers and students. For those unable to participate in a study trip, it is possible to do supplementary work in Sweden instead.

### **Form of teaching**

Teaching is normally given in the form of 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. Student essays should normally be written in English, but if the teacher understands Swedish it may be used instead.

**Assessment**

The course is normally 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 examination twice, wishes to change examiner for the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and it shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22, Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student will normally be guaranteed at least three opportunities to take the examination (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year, based on the earlier structure of the course.

**Grades**

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

To pass with distinction, it is required that the student has shown knowledge and skills in accordance with the aims of the course in a particularly productive and critically reflective way.

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 neither the right to revoke a submitted examination to avoid grading. The examiner has the possibility to request in supplementary qualifications of

examination for the grade Pass. The supplementary assignment should in such cases be communicated the student in writing and be handed in within the teacher's stipulated time.

**Course evaluation**

The department is responsible for that course evaluation is carried out systematically and regularly and is compiled in accordance with the regulations for course evaluation at Department of literature, history of ideas and religion ([www.lir.gu.se/om-oss/styrdokument](http://www.lir.gu.se/om-oss/styrdokument)).

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