



DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, HISTORY OF IDEAS, AND RELIGION

RT2323 The Theology of the Early Church, 7.5 credits

Den tidiga kyrkans teologi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion on 2020-06-15 to be valid from 2021-01-18, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Arts 100%

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

Position in the educational system

The course is offered 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

- account for central problems and debates in patristic theology and their wider significance
- discuss the interaction between theology, church, and politics in the context of the early church

Competence and skills

- express oneself orally and in writing in a stringent and linguistically correct way with respect to the problems treated in the course
- critically and constructively discuss different ways of working theologically in light of significant works in patristic theology

Judgement and approach

- evaluate various arguments and theological positions in an independent, well-motivated and nuanced way

Course content

The patristic period is the most formative period of Christian theology. Studying it is to place oneself in a privileged position from which to understand the emergence of a whole tradition of thought, with its basic motives, problems, and solutions. This is the period in which the early church, with its Biblical legacy, takes root in the world of ancient Greece and Rome. Studying patristic theology, however, is more than a historical exercise, for contemporary theology is very often characterized by a retrieval of ancient sources, which is why a solid grounding in the theology of the early church remains indispensable for theological work at a higher level. This course focuses on the reading of patristic primary sources and provides a well-rounded understanding the theological situation of the early church.

Form of teaching

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

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course is assessed through substantial participation in discussions 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 element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). For the final grade Pass with distinction, it is required that a student, in a particularly productive, critical, and reflective way, has shown knowledge and proficiency in accordance with the intended learning outcomes 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 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 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.