



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

### **RT2413 Occultism and Modernity, 7.5 credits**

Ockultism och modernitet, 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 2017-09-08 and was last revised on 2019-02-13 to be valid from 2019-02-13, 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 central discourses in occult currents and traditions
- account for central theories concerning occultism and Western esotericism
- understand and in a qualified way critically discuss central questions about esotericism and occultism

#### *Competence and skills*

- show proficiency to analyse central concepts and central forms of occult currents and traditions
- identify and discuss relevant scientific problems in research about esotericism and occultism

#### *Judgement and approach*

- critically interpret and evaluate power relations and discourses concerning esotericism and occultism

### **Course content**

The course will focus on modern forms of Western esotericism from 18th century Freemasonry to esoteric New Religious Movements such as the modern Witchcraft movement (Wicca), Satanism and the New Age Movement. More specifically, the course will consider how esoteric practitioners responded to major changes in Western religion and spirituality due to the processes of modernity and secularization. By the end of the course, students will have been acquainted with the major theoretical approaches to the study of Western esotericism as well as several forms of modern esotericism.

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### **Form of teaching**

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

The course is assessed through essays and compulsory written 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 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 from the last time the course was given.

### **Grades**

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

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.

For the final grade Pass with distinction, Pass with distinction is required on at least 50 % of the assessing components of the course.

### **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 so are relevant, be encouraged to make assessments with regard to gender equality and equality aspects as well as sensitise and problematise ecologically economically and socially sustainable development.