



DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, HISTORY OF IDEAS, AND RELIGION

RT2414 Religion and Politics in the United States, 7.5 credits

Religion och politik i USA, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion on 2017-07-03 and was last revised on 2020-02-26 to be valid from 2020-03-26, spring semester of 2020.

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

After a pass mark on the course, the student should be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for some historical factors creating the specifically American relation between religion and civil society
- account for central issues in the relation between religion and politics in the USA
- understand and critically discuss central questions about religion in the USA

Competence and skills

- show proficiency in analysing the role of religion in contemporary American politics
- identify and discuss relevant academic problems in research about religion in the USA

Judgement and approach

- critically interpret and evaluate statements about religion and politics.

Course content

Religion, Christianity in particular, has played and continues to play an important but complex role in American society and politics. While the United States was the first nation that formally separated church and state, religion has nonetheless played a more significant role in American society than it has in, for instance, modern Europe. Throughout the history of the United States, religion and politics has been integrated with question about race, migration, ethnicity, class, and gender. The course deals with these historical processes, as well as with the analysis of contemporary issues. As such, it enables a deeper understanding of the complex political development in the United States, which in turn affects the rest of the world.

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 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). 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.

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.