



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

### **RT2523 The New Testament and the Origins of Supersessionism, 7.5 credits**

Nya testamentet och ersättningsteologins uppkomst, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

---

#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion on 2022-06-15 to be valid from 2023-01-16, spring semester of 2023.

*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 a main field of study including a bachelor's thesis of at least 15 credits. Also qualified are applicants who have equivalent foreign education or that have equivalent prior knowledge according to earlier study regulation. Furthermore, a knowledge of languages equivalent to English A/English 5 as well as 15 credits of New Testament Greek is required.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

- account for different types of supersessionist theology and their presence in early Christian texts
- exemplify typological and allegorical interpretations of Old Testament texts in the New Testament and Apostolic Fathers

*Competence and skills*

- translate selected texts from the New Testament and Apostolic Fathers from Greek into English or Swedish and discuss philological and text-critical problems in the texts
- analyse the presence and development of supersessionist thought in the selected texts

*Judgement and approach*

- critically evaluate definitions and descriptions of supersessionism in contemporary theological and exegetical research
- evaluate the impact of supersessionist thought in early Christian texts on relations between Judaism and Christianity in history and present times

**Course content**

In the course, selected texts from the New Testament and Apostolic Fathers, primarily parts of the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of Barnabas, are studied in their original language and in critical editions. In addition, the student will study the origins of so-called supersessionist theology, a complex of ideas claiming that emergent Christianity has in one way or another replaced Judaism as the expression of the covenant between God and humanity. The student will delve into the question of how the authors of the texts employ typological and allegorical models for interpreting Old Testament texts in a supersessionist direction. Special emphasis will be placed on critical evaluation of so-called post-supersessionist readings of the New Testament and on the impact of supersessionist thought on Jewish-Christian relations.

**Form of teaching**

The course is taught through compulsory text seminars, to which the student is expected to contribute through prepared and active participation. The seminars are conducted on campus and online at certain definite times. The student is expected to be present physically or online on these occasions.

*Language of instruction: English*

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

**Assessment**

The course is assessed continuously through written assignments and through prepared and active participation in the seminars. All seminars are part of the assessment and thereby compulsory.

The student is required to retain a copy of home assignments until they are graded and returned.

A student who submits a home assignment after the stipulated time has no 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 an examination, the possibility of a reexamination is given at no more than four occasions.

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

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, but no more than 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 grade Pass, active participation in all compulsory components of the course is required, as well as passed written assignments.

For the grade Pass with distinction, the student is required to have shown knowledge and skills in a particularly productive and critically reflecting way in accordance with the aims of 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 neither has the right to revoke a submitted examination to avoid grading.

**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 the stated intended learning outcomes, students in the course should, whenever relevant, be encouraged to make assessments with respect to gender equality and other aspects of equality, as well as sensitise and problematise ecologically, economically and socially sustainable development.