



DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, HISTORY OF IDEAS, AND RELIGION

RT2903 Degree Project, Master of Arts (Two Years), Religious Studies and Theology, 30 credits

Religionsvetenskap och teologi, examensarbete för masterexamen, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion on 2018-06-29 to be valid from 2018-06-29, 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 offered as a freestanding course.

Main field of studies

Religious Studies and Theology

Specialization

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Entry requirements

Completed courses in Religious studies and theology at second cycle level of at least 60 credits, of relevance for the degree project, of which at least 7.5 credits with methodological specialisation, or the equivalent.

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

- independently and critically identify and account for problems in the academic study of religion and their relationship to current research and development
- show substantial and in-depth knowledge of theories and methods in the main field of study, as well as to connect these to identified problems

Competence and skills

- demonstrate an ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess, and handle complex research questions in relation to significant theories and methods in religious studies
- show proficiency in discussing relationships between theory, method, and source material in an independent and critical way
- show proficiency in producing an academically stringent text within given time frames and to contribute in this way to the development of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability to orally and in writing communicate scholarly problems and solutions, and the arguments underlying these

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to critically and self-reflexively evaluate different theories and methods in relation to subject-specific sources and phenomena as well as in relation to social issues and ethical aspects
- show significantly advanced ability to critically discuss and evaluate an academically produced text
- demonstrate advanced ability to analyse and reflect on his or her own learning, as well as to identify the need of additional knowledge and take responsibility for his or her knowledge development

Course content

The course consists in writing an independent and critical scholarly work. The subject and literature for the thesis are chosen in consultation with a supervisor.

Essay writing is linked to an advanced students' seminar where the student, apart from submitting and defending his or her own thesis, will also independently act as opponent to another student's thesis. The student must be active in the seminars and show an awareness of academic approaches and ways of working with texts. Since the course aims at the completion of a scholarly work of good quality, the emphasis during the course is on the training of skills in academic writing and an ability to clearly communicate complex theoretical material in written form.

Form of teaching

Teaching is given partly through seminars, partly through supervision.

Language of instruction: English

The language of instruction is normally English, but if all students understand Swedish the teacher may use Swedish instead. Students' theses should normally be written in English, but provided that the teacher and the student acting as opponent of the thesis understand Swedish it may be used instead.

Assessment

The thesis is examined in a thesis seminar. It is compulsory to present one's thesis at a seminar and to act as opponent on another student's thesis.

Students should retain a copy of their thesis until it is graded. A student who hands in the thesis after the stipulated time has not the right to have the thesis examined, but may present it at the next regular examination seminar instead.

A student who fails to pass the examination may present the thesis for new examination on no more than four occasions.

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). For the grade Pass, a passed thesis is required as well as that the student has acted as opponent on other student's thesis. 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 have obtained the grade Pass may not participate at re-examination for higher grades. A student has not the right to revoke a submitted thesis to avoid grading. The examiner may request supplementary qualifications 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 (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.