



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
History

Syllabus

History as Social Therapy and Trauma Recovery

Course Code:	HIA200
Course Title:	History as Social Therapy and Trauma Recovery <i>Historia som samhällsterapi och traumabearbetning</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
HIA (History)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2023-02-21, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2023 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits completed in History, Cultural Studies, History of Ideas, Religion, Sociology, Political Science, Ethnology, or Anthropology, including at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level or higher, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. describe different historical conflicts and traumas,
2. assess the historical consequences of societal conflicts and traumas,
3. discuss, analyse, and apply ways in which the past has been used in society and history in relation to various conflicts and traumas, and
3. use central concepts in relation to conflict and trauma.

Content

This interdisciplinary course draws upon history, social psychology, sociology, anthropology, and jurisprudence, and treats deindustrialisation, globalisation, migration, and other large-scale changes that have characterised the late 20th century and the early 21st century. Armed conflicts - now in our immediate vicinity - have also jettisoned current international security doctrines. When traditional life patterns are interrupted, the result is often confusion, frustration, and a sense of crisis. Such experiences always risk being denied, repressed, or otherwise handled in extremely destructive ways. Unsolved crises can in this way be passed on through generations, and history tends to repeat itself in eruptions of hatred, violence, or identity dissolution. Over the last few years, the question of the practical use of historical science, so called applied history, has received a great deal of attention in research and public debate. The course investigates to what extent history can be an instrument for processing collective trauma, and in the long term constitute a form of societal therapy. We also discuss the moral implications for history as a subject. Are ethical standpoints regarding right and wrong, guilt and responsibility compatible with the scientific ideal of impartial knowledge acquisition? More generally, the course treats shared narratives, memory production, and ideology.

A number of examples are studied of how problematic historical conflicts of interpretation have - or have not - been dealt with, such as South Africa after apartheid, Spain after Franco, Eastern Europe after Communism, or military dictatorships in Latin America. The course also covers structural changes in Western society and economy and consequences such as social marginalisation, populist tendencies, and changing gender roles.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-4 are assessed based on participation in seminars and a take-home exam.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.