



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
History

Syllabus

History as Social Therapy and Trauma Recovery

Course Code:	HIG200
Course Title:	History as Social Therapy and Trauma Recovery <i>Historia som samhällsterapi och traumabearbetning</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:
HIA (History)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2023-02-20, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2023 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

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 conflict and trauma, and
3. discuss how the past has been used in society and history in relation to various conflicts and traumas.

Content

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 aim of the course is to understand and explain the mechanisms behind phenomena such as conflicts between countries, civil war, and genocide. One of the basic assumptions is that difficult collective experiences tend to be repeated, perhaps several generations later, if they are denied, repressed, or cannot be expressed in public. An additional aim is to identify strategies that can be used to process traumatic experiences.

The issue of moral implications for the history subject will be raised, but no final answers will be provided concerning right or wrong, good or evil. If repressed memories are brought into the light and examined systematically, will this facilitate liberation from the demons of the past? Or will perhaps too much of an emphasis on the wrongs of the past instead hamper the peaceful co-existence of for instance different ethnic groups? These issues are discussed in the course. 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 consequences such as social marginalisation, populist tendencies, and changing gender roles. This interdisciplinary course draws upon history, social psychology, sociology, anthropology, and jurisprudence, and welcomes students and professionals in all these fields.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-3 are assessed based on participation in seminars and a written 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.