



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

History

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 27 August 2013, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: HIGA01

History I, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(Historia I, 30.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G1N (First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

Swedish

Prerequisites

General admission requirements and upper secondary level History A and Social studies A, or equivalent. Field-specific eligibility 1, see www.kau.se/omradesbehorighet.

Major Field of Study

HIA (History)

Learning Outcomes

Module 1. Building Civilisations, 6 ECTS cr

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

1. describe and compare the historical development in different cultures and epochs,
2. give an account of how the climate and geographical conditions have impacted on the evolution of human cultures,

Module 2: The Long Middle Ages, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

1. give an account of the causes and consequences of the transition from the feudal state to commercial capitalism,
2. explain the emergence and function of cities in the Middle Ages,
3. give an account of the globalisation trends in connection with the journeys of discovery,
4. describe the social importance of religions in terms of cultural and political aspects.

Module 3. The State and the Capital, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

1. describe the Western world's increasing global influence through world trade and colonialism,
2. describe the causes and consequences of the formation of the national state,
3. give an account of the emergence of new ideas and political ideologies,
4. give an account of different historical explanations to industrialisation and its consequences for different social groups and their life circumstances.

Module 4 The Age of Extremes, 9 ECTS cr.

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

1. give an account of the emergence of democracy nationally and internationally,
2. describe various forms of dictatorship and oppression in Europe and in other parts of the world,
3. give an account of theories on the causes and global consequences of the world wars and the cold war,
4. summarise the global economic development of the post-war era,
5. describe and explain the emergence of the Swedish welfare state,
6. explain the meaning of and apply the source critical method.

Content and Form of Instruction

Forms of instruction

Instruction is based on three forms of studying, namely joint lectures, problem-based study groups for enhancing the subject perspective, and finally, recurring seminars for reporting and discussing the work done in the study groups.

Module 1. Building Civilisations, 6 ECTS cr

The module provides an overview of the birth of humankind from the cradle to the present time. Starting with the early civilisations, issues of origin, development and decline are discussed. The perspective applied to world history is global historical and the theme is sustainable development.

Module 2: The Long Middle Ages, 7.5 ECTS cr

The period from the Roman empire to the Reformation and the Renaissance is covered in a comparative global perspective. A starting-point is the formation of Europe in the transition from the feudal state to commercial capitalism and the emergence of an alternative perception of the world based on Antiquity and Christianity. The importance of the journeys of discovery to the creation of closer networks between the earth's cultural areas is emphasised. The module also deals with Swedish history in relation to the European and global development.

3. State and Capital, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The module deals with the increasing global influence of the Western world from the 16th century to the early 20th century and the effects of colonialism and industrialisation on world development. Changes in types of regime, the emergence of ideologically-based movements and growing conflicts between various Western colonial systems are treated as a background to the 20th century world-wide wars and conflicts. Special attention is paid to the Swedish development.

4. The Age of Extremes, 9 ECTS cr.

The period from World War I till the present day is covered in a global as well as a Swedish perspective. The study is based on binaries such as war/peace, poor/rich, dictatorship/democracy, market economy/plan economy, nationalism/internationalism, local/global, family/individual, work/leisure.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on:

Module 1: take-home exam and orally in seminar.

Module 2: written exam. Learning outcomes 2 and 4 also orally in seminar. and orally in seminar.

Module 3: written exam.

Module 4: written exam. Learning outcome 6 also orally in seminar.

Module 2

Learning outcomes 1-4: take-home exam and learning outcomes 2 and 4 also orally in seminar

Module 3

Learning outcomes 1-4: written exam

Module 4

Learning outcomes 1-6: written exam and learning outcome 6 also orally in seminar.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course and the modules. A course grade of Distinction is awarded to students who have earned this grade for at least 21 course credits.

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 assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

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

The course was first approved on 35 April 2007.

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