



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Cultural Studies

Syllabus

History of Ideas I: Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

Course Code:	KVGH11
Course Title:	History of Ideas I: Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance <i>Idéhistoria I: Antiken, medeltiden och renässansen</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:
KSU (Cultural Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2019-09-03, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2020 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- outline the history of views of life, social belief systems, world views, philosophy and science, mainly in the Western cultural sphere from Antiquity to the Renaissance,
- give an account of, compare, and problematise different lines of development in the history of ideas,

- give an account of the meaning of central analytical concepts in the discipline of history of ideas,

Competence and skills

- identify the use of concepts, ideas, and structures of thought in primary sources and place them in an intellectual history context,
- formulate and delimit research-related problems and seek relevant information to address them,

Judgement and approach

- apply history of ideas approaches through comparing and contextualising different ideas and structures of thought in Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance as well as in their relation to the present day, and
- assess and discuss the Western tradition of thought and its historiography and reflect on it from different power perspectives.

Content

The course provides a basic history of ideas survey of philosophy, science, views of life, culture, and society from early major cultures until the mid-1500s, with an emphasis on Ancient Greece, Early Christianity and the Middle Ages (including Western Christian, Byzantine, and Arabic-speaking society) and the Renaissance and Reformation. Central analytical concepts and themes of the history of ideas are treated and the source text analysis method is introduced.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, presenting overviews of essential content, and mandatory seminars on course content in the light of course literature, in which students discuss their understanding orally and in writing.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on a written exam, active participation in mandatory seminars, and an individual source text analysis presented in a seminar.

The examiner may decide that a student who is very close to a passing grade can complete a supplementary assignment to receive a passing grade for a specific examination. If this is a possibility, the students must be informed in writing no later than the start of the course, and the examiner must specify when and how such a supplementary assignment may be permitted.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to special pedagogical 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.