



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Cultural Studies

Syllabus

History of Ideas I: The Enlightened World

Course Code:	KVGH12
Course Title:	History of Ideas I: The Enlightened World <i>Idéhistoria I: Den upplysta världen</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 2018-02-22, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2018 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 life stances, social belief systems, world views, philosophy and science, mainly in the Western cultural sphere from the scientific to the French revolution,
- give an account of how the emergence of colonialism affected the worlds of ideas,

Competence and skills

- identify the use of concepts, ideas and structures of thought in primary source texts 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 the past as well as in relation to the present, and
- assess and discuss the Western tradition of thought and reflect on it from different power perspectives and in relation to colonial experience and encounters between the coloniser and the colonised.

Content

The course provides a basic idea-historical survey of the 16th century till the French revolution with a

focus on conceptions of nature, society and the human being. The science revolution and the European intellectual development in early modern times are treated in relation to changing societal and global conditions. One emphasis is put on intellectual movements such as the Enlightenment, another on the emergence of the colonial world order and its ideologies. The focus is on European thinking and how it changed in the encounter between the coloniser and the colonised.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, presenting 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 written exam, active participation in mandatory seminars, and individual, source text analysis presented in seminar.

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.