



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 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 the scientific revolution to the French revolution,
- give an account of how the emergence of colonialism affected people's 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 history of ideas survey from the early 16th century until the French revolution with a focus on conceptions of nature, society, and humanity. The science revolution and the European intellectual development in early modern times are treated in relation to changing societal and global conditions. One focus area concerns significant intellectual movements such as the Enlightenment, another the emergence of the colonial world order and its ideologies. The emphasis 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 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 written exam, active participation in mandatory seminars, and an individual written 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.