



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Cultural Studies

Syllabus

History of Ideas I: Modern Times

Course Code: KVGH13
Course Title: History of Ideas I: Modern Times
Idéhistoria I: Moderna tider
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 world from Romanticism to Postmodernism,

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 the 19-20th centuries as well as in relation to the present day, and
- assess and discuss the societal function of knowledge and different approaches to the scientific and technological development and its consequences,

Content

The module provides an overarching idea-historical survey of the 1800-1900s with ramifications into the early 2000s from Romanticism to postmodernism, and illustrates the changes taking place in conceptions of nature, society, science, culture and the human being. Political ideologies, systems

thinking, social movements, science development and institutionalisation are treated along with philosophical specialisations and diversification. The diversity of intellectual trends and recurring patterns and structures are of special importance. Also, other power aspects of knowledge are addressed in the study of positive and negative approaches to the development of science and technology.

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 take-home exam and active participation in mandatory seminars where short individual hand-in assignments are presented and discussed.

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.