



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 <i>Idéhistoria I: Moderna tider</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 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 19th and 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 a general history of ideas survey of the 19th and 20th centuries with extensions into the early 21st century from Romanticism to Postmodernism, and illustrates the changes taking place in conceptions of nature, society, science, culture, and humanity. Political ideologies, systems thinking, social movements and the development and institutionalisation of science are treated along with philosophical specialisations and diversification. The diversity of intellectual trends and recurring patterns and structures are of special importance. In addition, 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 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 take-home exam and active participation in mandatory seminars where short individual hand-in assignments are presented and discussed.

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.