



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Religious Studies and Theology

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 23 February 2012, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2012 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: REGAA1

Religious Studies I, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(Religionsvetenskap I, 30.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G1N (First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

Swedish

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Major Field of Study

RKA (Religious Studies)

Learning Outcomes

Module 1 Life Philosophy, the Individual and the Community, 9 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- outline the main subareas of religious studies subareas,
- give an account of the changes in the Swedish spiritual landscape from unitary culture to multicultural,
- describe how the world religions and new religious movements are represented in Sweden today,
- give examples of how creeds and life philosophies are interpreted and represented in contemporary society collectively and individually through hermeneutical, sociological and psychological explanatory models,
- give examples of the roles played by religious institutions socially, politically and culturally.

Module 2 World Religions 12 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- present similarities and dissimilarities between phenomenological phenomena such as belief in a god, in power and different forms of myth, ritual and cult in non-Christian religions,
- describe the role of religion as a community factor in different forms of society,
- present similarities and dissimilarities in individual religious thinking and acting,
- identify ethnocentric descriptions of non-Christian religions.

Module 3 Christian Faith, Ethics and Philosophy of Religion 12 ECTS cr.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- outline the emergence of Christian creeds in a historical perspective in terms of, for instance, ideas and denominations,
- give an account of the basic features of various ethical theories and when applicable relate them to creeds and beliefs,

- identify and critically discuss current ethical problems based on ethical theory, creeds and beliefs,
- give an account of some central religious-philosophical issues and the debate in the past and present.

Content and Form of Instruction

Module 1 Life Philosophy, the Individual and the Community, 9 ECTS cr

Students acquire basic knowledge of the research field in religious studies and of creeds and beliefs in Sweden today along with an understanding of social, political and cultural perspectives on belief pluralism.

Module 2 World Religions 12 ECTS cr

Students develop knowledge of non-Christian religions with an emphasis on life philosophy, ethical principles, ritual, cult and organisation in the present with glimpses of the past.

Module 3 Christian Faith, Ethics and Philosophy of Religion 12 ECTS cr.

Students acquire an overall picture of Christian faith, its historical emergence, ideas and denominations. They also acquire knowledge of the basic features of ethical theories and an understanding of the core issues involved in some classic religious-philosophical problems.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Examination is in the form of take-home assignments and a written exam.

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 assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.