



Faculty of Arts and Social Science  
Religious Studies and Theology

# Syllabus

## Religious Studies II

<b>Course Code:</b>	REGBB2
<b>Course Title:</b>	Religious Studies II <i>Religionsvetenskap II</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	30
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Undergraduate level
<b>Progressive</b>	First cycle, contains specially designed degree project for Higher Education
<b>Specialisation:</b>	Diploma (G1E)

**Major Field of Study:**  
RKA (Religious Studies)

### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2016-08-26, and is valid from the Spring semester 2017 at Karlstad University.

### Prerequisites

At least 15 ECTS credits completed on the course REGAA1 Religious Studies I, 30 ECTS credits.

### Learning Outcomes

Module 1: Religion, Text, and Materiality, 9 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. give an account of and compare the representation of religious phenomena in different religious traditions, e.g. regarding text, religious practice, and materiality,
2. discuss the role of religions in terms of community and conflict in different societies,
3. discuss different theoretical perspectives on religion and religious phenomena,
4. identify and critically discuss stereotypes and ethnocentric descriptions of religions in contemporary texts and media,
5. give an account of and discuss how knowledge of religion can be mediated in different contexts, and
6. analyse the representation of religion and related issues in various media.

Module 2: Life Philosophy, Ethics and Interpretation, 7.5 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. give an account of and discuss some definitions of life philosophy,
2. describe some different positions in the debate on faith and science,
3. identify and discuss current ethical problems based on ethical theory,
4. give an account of themes in current trends and secular movements relevant to life philosophy, and
5. analyse and give an account of how popular cultural artefacts can be used to illustrate life philosophies and ethical issues.

Module 3: The Children of Abraham: Interrelationships of Religions in Theory and Practice, 4.5 ECTS

cr

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. give an account of central theological concepts in the three major monotheistic religions compared,
2. distinguish and critically discuss similarities and differences between and within the three monotheistic traditions, and
3. identify and analyse current and historical conflicts between and within the three monotheistic traditions.

Module 4: Method and Essay, 9 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. give an account of some central theories and methods in religious studies,
2. critically review studies in religion and subject-specific teaching methodology with regard to method, theory, and choice of approach,
3. identify a research problem and independently formulate one on the basis of previous studies in the field,
4. plan and complete an independent analysis of a chosen religious studies material, demonstrating a critically academic approach, and
5. present and discuss their own and others' research in the field.

## **Content**

Module 1: Religion, Text, and Materiality, 9 ECTS cr

The module focuses on different theoretical perspectives in the analysis of religion, and on how religion can be communicated and understood in different contexts.

Module 2: Life Philosophy, Ethics and Interpretation, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module focuses on life philosophies and different ways of understanding and defining the phenomenon of life philosophies. Students conduct in-depth studies of a secular philosophy and are introduced to the field of ethics and its relation to popular culture expressions. The classic debate on faith and science is discussed.

Module 3: The Children of Abraham: Interrelationships of Religions in Theory and Practice, 4.5 ECTS cr

The module focuses on theology with an emphasis on the dialogue within and between the three monotheistic religions with a special emphasis on the historical and theological relation between Judaism and Christianity.

Module 4: Method and Essay, 9 ECTS cr

Students apply basic theories and methods in religious studies in preparation for their essay project, which is carried out under supervision and presented in writing and orally.

## **Reading List**

See separate document.

## **Examination**

Module 1

Learning outcomes 1, 5, and 6 are assessed on the basis of seminar participation including an oral presentation.

Learning outcomes 2, 3, and 4 are assessed on the basis of an individual, written take-home exam.

Module 2

All learning outcomes are assessed on the basis of an individual written assignment and a seminar discussion of the same.

Module 3

All learning outcomes are assessed on the basis of a written exam.

#### Module 4

Learning outcomes 1 and 3 are assessed on the basis of an individual written assignment.

Learning outcomes 2, 4, and 5 are assessed on the basis of an essay, to be completed individually, and presented and discussed at a seminar. Students are also expected to act as peer reviewer of another student's essay.

The number of examination opportunities is limited to five.

#### **Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

In order for an overall Distinction to be awarded, a Distinction on at least 19 (of 30) ECTS credits is required.

#### **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 course REGBB2 cannot be included in the same degree programme as the course REGAB2 due to overlap.

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