



Teacher Education
Religious Studies and Theology

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Board of Teacher Education on 27 October 2011, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2012 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: REGL01

Religious Studies for Teachers 1, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(Religionsvetenskap med didaktisk inriktning 1, 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 plus either

- field-specific eligibility A6 c - Philosophy History Jurisprudence Religion (upper secondary school level Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2, History 1b or 1a1 + 1a2) or
- field-specific eligibility 6 c - Philosophy History Jurisprudence Religion (upper secondary school level English B, Civics A, History A).

Major Field of Study

Learning Outcomes

The aim of the course is to introduce religious studies in a teaching methodological perspective. On the basis of subject studies and subject-specific teaching methodology students develop the knowledge and methods required to stimulate and organise religious studies in school.

Module 1 Religion and life philosophy, 4.5 ECTS cr

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

- 1 -give an account of and problematise the different sub-fields of religious studies in terms of content and methodology,
- 2 -give an account of the field of religion and life approaches has changed locally and globally,
- 3 -give an account of Swedish curricula in relation to some religious teaching methodological perspectives.

Module 2 World religions, 9 ECTS cr

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

- 1 -give an account of basic concepts in religious studies, such as god, myth, ritual, sacrifice and prayer and their manifestations in different religious traditions,
- 2 -recount and reflect on some similarities and differences in people's religious conceptions and behaviour in a critical and comparative perspective of different "world religions",
- 3 -describe and discuss the role of religion in the creation of community and conflict,
- 4 -identify stereotypes and exotic descriptions of world religions in different forms of educational texts.

Module 3 Christian faiths and tradition, 9 ECTS cr

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

- 1 -give an account of some central concepts and themes in the Christian faith and tradition and its forms of expression and importance in different epochs,
- 2 -exemplify some main features in theology and church history such as the historical crossroads that led to different Christian churches such as the orthodox, catholic and Lutheran versions,
- 3 -describe the origin of the biblical texts and main content and give an account of some biblical themes in contemporary culture,
- 4 -identify and characterise important biblical themes and stories, and
- 5 -critically discuss the relation between interpretation and power in relation to central categories such as gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class and age.

Module 4 Young people's life questions and the teaching of religion, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- 1 -give an account of current theories on religion and youth with an emphasis on the sociology of religion and religion-specific teaching methodologies,
- 2 -describe the development of the subject and its current status nationally and internationally,
- 3 -give an account of the task of the religion teacher as specified in national curricula and describe and interpret current criteria of assessment and grading,
- 4 -problematisate potentials and limitations in learning and teaching the subject religion,
- 5 -analyse and discuss central teaching methodological concepts and dimensions of religion and give an account some different teaching strategies.

Content and Form of Instruction

Module 1 Religion and life philosophy, 4.5 ECTS cr

Basic study of the field of religious studies and an introduction to religious phenomena locally and globally. National curricula related to religion are discussed and analysed.

Module 2 World religions, 9 ECTS cr

Introduction to world religions with an emphasis on life approaches, ethical principles, ritual, cult and organisation in the past and the present. The selection of knowledge in different educational texts is problematised.

Module 3 The Christian faith and tradition, 9 ECTS cr

A survey of the Christian faith, its origin and growth, ideological content and creeds. Students are introduced to the Bible with an emphasis on content, history and themes in contemporary culture.

Module 4 Young people's life questions and the teaching of religion, 7.5 ECTS cr

Introduction to young people's religion and life philosophies. The subject religion is studied nationally and internationally as is the teacher's task in the past and today.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on:

Module 1

Learning outcome 1: group presentation

Learning outcome 2 and 3: group presentation and individual hand-in assignment.

Module 2

Learning outcomes 1-4: group presentations and a weekly individual paper.

Module 3

Learning outcome 1-4: written exam.

Learning outcome 5: group presentation.

Module 4

Learning outcome 1: written article.

Learning outcomes 2-5: group presentation.

All examination components are mandatory. Individual contributions to group presentations must be clearly indicated.

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.

Teacher Education

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.

Karlstads universitet 651 88 Karlstad, Sweden
Tel +46-54-700 10 00 Fax +46-54-700 14 60
information@kau.se www.kau.se