



# LUNDS UNIVERSITET

Humanistiska och teologiska fakulteterna

## Course syllabus for third-cycle studies

1. Course details		
1.	Course code	<i>HTG005F</i>
2.	Course title	<i>What is Religion? The History of the Scientific Study of Religion/Vad är religion? Religionsbegreppets vetenskapshistoria</i>
3.	Credits	<i>7.5</i>
4.	Details of approval	<i>Approved in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Delegation at the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 5 March 2023.</i>
5.	Details of revision	

2. General information		
1.	Type of course and its place in the educational system	<i>This is a third-cycle distance learning course. It is an elective course in third-cycle education in the humanities, theology and social sciences.</i>
2.	Language of instruction	<i>Swedish and English</i>

3. Learning outcomes		
		On completion of the course, the students shall be able to
1.	Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>give a general account of the historical processes that have shaped the view of religion</i></li> <li>• <i>identify and describe key scholarly positions on analytical capacity regarding the concept of religion</i></li> <li>• <i>demonstrate an awareness of the ambiguity of the concept of religion in contemporary society and account for the complex of problems associated with the concept's relation to a Christian discourse</i></li> </ul>
2.	Competence and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>summarise and discuss the development of the concept of religion in different historical periods</i></li> <li>• <i>critically review and analyse key positions relating to theories of religion</i></li> </ul>
3.	Judgement and approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>evaluate and problematise the development of the concept of religion in relation to gender and minority issues</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>at a basic level, apply perspectives related to identity formation and alterity in relation to the history of the concept of religion.</i></li> </ul>
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<b>4.</b>	<b>Course content</b>	
1.	Brief description of the course and its content including details of any sub-divisions	<p><i>The course consists of a historical introduction to the concept of religion based on a theory of science perspective. The course offers a review of the historical processes that have shaped the concept of religion and how this has affected today's understanding of religion, from the concept's original ancient context to Christianity's takeover of the term, via the Middle Ages to the growth of Protestantism and the advent of modernity. The course covers the Enlightenment, the Romantic era and the colonial period as well as the modern and, in particular, the postmodern era's effect on ideas concerning religion. A special focus is placed on the Swedish context and religion's relation to secular society.</i></p> <p><i>The student will study in depth and adopt a position on central debates that shaped the scientific study of religion, debates that have addressed the analytical accuracy of the concept. The student will learn to apply different critical perspectives – postcolonial, gender studies, historical-critical and others – and receive a basic introduction to theorising in the different disciplines of religious studies.</i></p>

<b>5. Teaching and assessment</b>		
1.	Teaching methods employed including details of any compulsory components	<i>Teaching consists of lectures and compulsory seminars.  This is a distance learning course supported by a web-based learning platform and/or digital tools. It is assumed that the student participates on these terms and has access to a computer with an internet connection. The department provides information on the technical requirements.</i>
2.	Examination details	<i>The course is assessed through attendance and active participation in all seminars and a final written take-home exam. If required to offer a student with a long-term disability an examination equivalent to that of a student with no disability, an examiner can, after consultation with the University's Disability Support Services, take a decision on an alternative form of examination for the student concerned.  Exams/components for this course are included in an appendix at the end of the document.</i>

<b>6. Grades</b>		
1.	Grading scale	<i>Fail or Pass.</i>
2.	Grading of the complete course	
3.	Modules and variations in grading (if applicable)	

<b>7. Required reading</b>		
1.	Reading list	<i>For a list of the course literature and other study resources, see appendix.</i>

<b>8. Other information</b>		
1.	<i>The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.</i>	
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