SANKT IGNATIOS COLLEGE
STOCKHOLM SCHOOL OF
EASTERN CHRISTIAN STUDIES

RT403/RT404 Science, Philosophy, and Religion, 7,5 credits [ECTS]

Vetenskap, filosofi och religion, 7,5 hp

Subjects
Biblical Studies, History of Religion, Church History, Systematic Theology, Liturgical Studies, Ecclesiology, Religious Behavioral Science, Eastern Christian Studies

Language of Instruction
English

Level
Second Cycle

Main Field and Level of Specialization
Religious Studies and Theology, A1N, second cycle, has only first cycle courses as entry requirement.

General
The course is offered as a freestanding course. It is part of the *Pre-Master in Religious Studies and Theology*, 60 credits.

Entry Requirements
Courses equivalent to 90 credits from the First Cycle in the humanities, social sciences, educational sciences, theology, law or health sciences, or equivalent competence. Proficiency in English equivalent to the Swedish upper secondary course English 6.

Grading Scale for Entire Course
A = Excellent; B = Very Good; C = Good; D = Satisfactory; E = Sufficient; Fx = Insufficient (allows for supplemental work); F = Insufficient.

Students who have passed the course cannot retake the course exam to pursue a higher grade.

Course Description
How do we distinguish between the "real" world and the "observable" world? Critical realists and many scientists make a distinction between the "real" world that exists independent from human perceptions, theories, and constructions and the "observable" world. While the "real" cannot be observed, the "observable" is constructed from our perspectives and experiences. In this course, we take a closer look at the relationship between objectivity and subjectivity, as well as on the relation between "real" and "observable," and what is "real"/exists (ontology) and what we can know and understand about the "real" (epistemology). Through these perspectives we try to understand the relationship between science, philosophy, and religion. Throughout the course, students will listen to different voices grappling with the big questions in the field of religious studies and theology.

Learning Outcomes

After completion of the course the student should be able to

1. Knowledge and understanding:
   1.1 relate various positions on science, philosophy and religion, within the field of religious studies and theology, and identify how they apply theories on various materials and research objects
   1.2 identify positions in the current scholarly discourse on science, philosophy and religion, within the field of religious studies and theology

2. Competence and skills:
   2.1 independently identify, formulate and solve problems related to ontology and epistemology, as well as problems related to objectivity and subjectivity, within the field of religious studies
   2.2 identify and analyze critically various approaches to religious studies and epistemology, with the use of appropriate critical methods within a given time frame

3. Judgement and approach:
   3.1 select and argue for appropriate methods for the study of the relationship between science, philosophy and religion, and the limitations such methods impose on the object of study, from both a disciplinary, social and ethical perspective
   3.2 assess and argue for the limitations of intersectionality in the field of science, philosophy and religion, and the need for ongoing research in the field as well as the ethical problems and social concerns that concern the intersectionality.

Forms of Instruction
Campus, and Distance Education with scheduled online teaching.
The course is offered on campus (RT403) and online (RT404). Teaching is conducted in two ways. For those registered on campus, teaching consists of approximately 9 lectures and
seminars, which are mandatory. For those registered online, teaching will be conducted through online lectures, which are not mandatory, written assignments, and mandatory seminars where students and teachers interact synchronously online.

In order to complete the course, at least 80% attendance at lectures is required for campus students. Absence beyond that can be compensated through supplemental work if the teacher in charge of the course deems this possible. In case of absence of 50% or more, the course is considered to be interrupted, even if examination tasks have been completed.

For both campus and online students, a completed course requires 100% attendance at seminars and the submission of all required assignments.

If the number of registered students in the course is low, the teaching hours allotted for the course may be affected.

Assessment and Grading
For campus students, assessment is conducted through written assignments (1.1; 2.1), seminars (1.1; 1.2; 3.2), and a final paper (1.2; 2.2; 3.1). The seminars are graded "pass" and "fail." The written assignments are graded "fail," "good" or "very good." The final paper is graded A–F. For a final course grade of A or B students must pass all seminars, and score "very good" on all written assignments, as well as an A or a B on the final paper. Receiving a final grade on the course requires that students have been present at mandatory lectures and seminars, have fulfilled all seminars, and have passed all the written assignments with at a minimum the grade "good," and with at a minimum an E on the final paper.

For online students, assessment is conducted through written assignments (1.1; 2.1), online (live) seminars (1.1; 1.2; 3.2), and a final paper (1.2; 2.2; 3.1). The online seminars are graded "pass" and "fail." The written assignments are graded "fail," "good" or "very good." The final paper is graded A–F. For a final course grade of A or B, students must pass all seminars, and score "very good" on all written assignments, as well as an A or a B on the final paper. Receiving a final grade on the course requires that students have fulfilled all seminars, and have passed all written assignments with at minimum the grade "good," and with at minimum an E on the final paper.

Seminars, written assignments, and the final paper must be submitted on time. Failure to do so may result in the grade "fail." Students who fail an assignment or an exam have the right to re-sit the exam.

If the student has a decision/recommendation for special educational support from Sankt Ignatios högskola/Stockholm School of Eastern Christian Studies due to a disability, the examiner has the right to adapt the examination. The examiner must decide based on the objectives of the syllabus whether the examination can be adapted in accordance with the decision/recommendation.

Other Information
The course is evaluated in accordance with current guidelines for course evaluations at Sankt Ignatios högskola/Stockholm School of Eastern Christian Studies , where the students' opinions are collected. The course evaluation report is shared with participating and prospective students in accordance with the current guidelines, and forms the basis for future development of courses and educational programs. The teacher in charge of the course is responsible for distributing the evaluations to the students, and to submit a course evaluation report to the Subject Collegium which is then returned to the Dean's Collegium. The report is then made freely accessible.

Students who have taken this course according to an older syllabus can take the course exam according to the respective (older) course syllabus within two years after the course

was last given. If there are special reasons, a (re-)examination can take place even later. Teaching is not normally given according to the older syllabus.

Additional Directives

The Course Syllabus was approved by the Dean, June 1st 2023. It was revised 12 February 2026 by the Dean's Collegium.