



HÖGSKOLAN I GÄVLE

Atheism in history and contemporary society 15cr

Ateismen i historia och nutida samhällsliv 15hp

Set by Faculty of Education and Business Studies

Version

Set at

Valid from

12/30/14

HT2015

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| Level | A1F |
| Education level | Second cycle |
| Course identifier | RVA014 |
| Credits | 15cr |
| Main field of study | Religious Studies |
| Subject group | Religious Studies |
| Disciplinary domain | Humanities 100.0% |

Learning outcomes Upon Completion of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give a broad outline of the historical development of atheism in the West from antiquity to the present
- provide a coherent representation of the Swedish atheism development in three phases from 1880 onwards
- from different disciplinary perspectives (sociological, comparative, philosophical, etc.) to describe crosscutting issues in new international belief and knowledge debate
- show a deeper insight into actual philosophical thinking and research concerning atheism as a modern phenomena

Skills and abilities

- identify and independently treat recurring philosophical problems that emerge in connection to atheism as a historical phenomenon
- identify and analyze theoretical premises of this new debate
- insert the contemporary belief and knowledge debate in a broader cultural context and relate the debate to neighboring issues related to religious freedom and multiculturalism.

- contribute to new knowledge in this academic field

Judgement and attitudes

- adopt a critical approach to contemporary philosophical debate considering views of Life
- make scientific and ethical evaluations of the role of atheism in society
- show an insight concerning the limits of the scientific study of atheism in contemporary society

Course content The course provides an overview of atheism history from antiquity to the present day. It gives a comprehensive presentation of atheism lineages in the West from antiquity until today, with a particular focus on the Swedish situation from 1880 onwards to the present situation. The historical introduction is supplemented by a religious philosophical examination of the philosophical issues that have been central in different eras. Sociological, ethical and epistemological perspectives are used to illuminate the contemporary religious debate. Related issues concerning religious freedom and multiculturalism will be particularly highlighted.

Teaching Lecturing is conducted through lectures and seminars.

Prerequisites 60 credits in Master programme in Religious Studies
English language proficiency equivalent to (the Swedish upper secondary school) English course B/6.

Examination Examinatory seminars, oral and written presentations.

Grade A, B, C, D, E, Fx, F

Sustainable environment A minor part of the course content deals with sustainable development.

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| Module | 0010 History of atheism | 7.5cr | Grade: AF |
| | 0020 Atheism in contemporary social life | 7.5cr | Grade: AF |