



## HÖGSKOLAN I GÄVLE

### Religion and folk beliefs in African and European traditions 15

cr

*Religion och folklig tro i afrikanska och europeiska traditioner 15 hp*

Set by Faculty of Education and Business Studies

**Version**

**Set at**

**Valid from**

12/30/14

**HT2015**

<b>Level</b>	A1F
<b>Education level</b>	Second cycle
<b>Course identifier</b>	RVA015
<b>Credits</b>	15 cr
<b>Main field of study</b>	Religious Studies
<b>Subject group</b>	Religious Studies
<b>Disciplinary domain</b>	Humanities 100.0 %

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

Knowledge and understanding

- describe in depth some examples of traditional medicine in Africa respectively in Europe and the beliefs and phenomena associated with them
- outline a number of contemporary folk performances and conceptual worlds covered in the course
- demonstrate advanced knowledge of popular culture's role in contemporary folklore
- demonstrate familiarity with reception theory respectively the concept of reception history, and the concepts of "disembedding" and "reembedding" as tools of understanding of contemporary conceptual worlds
- show a deeper insight into current research about these questions

Skills and abilities

- show the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge about contemporary folklore while analyzing complex situations

- critically, creatively and independently apply reception theory on contemporary folklore
- make a scientific contribution to the study of contemporary folklore
- give a presentation of the results in a national and an international context and discuss them in dialogue with different groups

Judgement and attitudes

- show an awareness of ethical aspects concerning the scientific study of contemporary folklore
- enter a deeper awareness of the importance of values for the development of society
- identify the personal need for more knowledge in this field and take responsibility for this process

**Course content**

The course covers the folklore and traditional medicine in a number of African and European historical contexts, and how these phenomena occur as elements in new religious movements and in popular culture in the West. Phenomena studied include: witchcraft, ancestor-belief and -cult, spirit-impact and -exorcism, shamanism, Voodoo and Santeria; the folk healing arts meetings with Christian and Muslim forms of curative care; the meeting between the folk medicine and modern medicine school. The phenomena will be analyzed in the light of, among other things, reception theory, ie. how old ideas are taken up, adapted and used today; sometimes as a serious new spiritual tradition and sometimes more playful and creative issues in books, movies or games.

**Teaching**

Lectures, seminars and tutorials

**Prerequisites**

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

**Examination**

Examinatory seminars, oral and written presentations.

**Grade**

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

**Sustainable environment**

Content with sustainable development is not relevant to this course.

**Module**

0010 Folk medicine in the African and European traditions	7.5 cr	Grade: AF
0020 Continuity and change in African and European religious cont	7.5 cr	Grade: AF