

Syllabus

for course at first level

Magic in the European History of Religions: Texts and Traditions
Magi i europeisk religionshistoria: Texter och traditioner

**7.5 Higher Education
Credits**
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	RHG511
Valid from:	Spring 2021
Date of approval:	2020-08-27
Department	Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender Studies
Main field:	Comparative Religion/History of Religions
Specialisation:	G2F - First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus was developed by the Faculty Board of Humanities 2020-06-17 and adopted by the Board of the Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender Studies 2020-08-27.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

60 ECTS credits in the humanities, social anthropology or cultural geography. English 6.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
1001	Magic in the European History of Religions	7.5

Course content

The course looks at some of the most important magical texts and traditions that have flourished in Europe and the broader Mediterranean area from late antiquity to the present day. The texts and traditions of European magic are discussed in their historical, religious, and social contexts, with a specific focus on 1) the transcultural encounters and transfers that magical texts bear witness to; and 2) the continuities and discontinuities in their reception and use that shed light on broader developments in the European history of religions. The various goals, techniques, material cultures, and experiential dimensions of magic are assessed, as well as their theological and philosophical interpretations.

The course has an emphasis on reading and interpreting primary sources in translation. Through primary and secondary sources, students will be acquainted with late-antique materials such as the Greek Magical Papyri and Neoplatonic theurgy; medieval materials such as the *Picatrix* and the Solomonian ritual magical tradition; Renaissance natural magic and occult philosophy; and modern occultist magical traditions that continue to the present day. Broader theoretical questions about the meanings and place of magic vis-à-vis religion, science, philosophy, and culture will be interrogated throughout the course.

Learning outcomes

In order to pass the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Give an account of major trends and developments in European ritual magical traditions
- Give an account of, and reflect upon, the most important sources of European magic
- Reflect critically on the problematics of "magic" in the history of religions in Europe and its study.

Education

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars.

Instruction is given in the language specified for each respective course offering.

Instruction is either distance- or campus-based, as specified for each course offering.

For more detailed information, please refer to the course description. The course description will be made available at least one month before the course starts.

Forms of examination

a. The course is examined on the basis of written examinations in the form of a take-home exam and assignment papers.

The principles for weighting individual course assignments are described in the grading criteria.

The examiner may grant exemption from the forms of instruction and examination as specified in this syllabus for a student who can show a certificate recommending special educational support. The examiner shall in such a decision specify the forms for alternative or adapted examinations or course requirements.

For more detailed information, please refer to the course description. The course description will be made available at least one month before the course starts.

b. Grades for the take-home exam will be set according to a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent
B = Very good
C = Good
D = Satisfactory
E = Adequate
Fx = Inadequate
F = Totally inadequate

The assignment papers will be graded according to a two-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

U = Fail
G = Pass

c. Students will be informed of the written grading criteria when the course starts.

d. In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on the take-home exam and the grade of G on each assignment paper. The final course grade is based on the grade on the take-home exam.

e. At least two examination opportunities should be offered for each course. At least one examination opportunity should be offered during a semester when the course is not given.

Students who receive the grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the department board.

Students who receive the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade.

f. The completion of a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade Fx into a passing grade on the take-home exam may be permitted if the student is close to meeting the criteria for a passing grade. The assignment should be submitted within a week of the examiner notifying the student of the need to complete a supplementary assignment. Adequate corrections of simple mistakes related to formatting will be graded using the grades A-E. Adequate corrections of flaws related to understanding – minor misunderstandings, minor inaccuracies or too limited arguments – will receive the grade E.

Interim

When the syllabus is discontinued, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester during a transition period of three semesters.

Limitations

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken in Sweden or elsewhere, of

identical or partially similar content.

Required reading

For up-to-date information about required reading , please refer to the department website at www.erg.su.se/religionshistoria

The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.