

The Emergence of Judaism, Christianity and Islam (TRVN11)

Course content

The focus of this course is the formative periods of rabbinic Judaism, Christianity and Islam—phases, which played a crucial role for their subsequent developments and manifestations. The course covers the emergence of Christianity, rabbinic Judaism and Islam, focusing, in particular, on the role that interaction between them has played for their respective formation and development. We will study the major developments and concepts within each tradition during its formative period, addressing in particular the complex identity formation processes—from the “partings of the ways” between Judaism and Christianity to the emergence of Islam—and the role that interaction of various kinds played in these processes.

Time Period

Teaching: weeks 44–51 2017

Instructors and Institution

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Compact seminar: Lund, November 6–10, 2017

Form of Teaching; Course Activities

Instruction is provided via the internet and through a compact seminar and supported by tutorials at the student’s home university. Participation in the course forum on the internet is a requirement, as well as the submission of an essay. Students are provided with a reading list to be read independently aided by introductions and weekly assignments on the internet through Blackboard. The students may be asked to prepare some additional material for the compact seminar.

Exam

The course is examined through a fixed written exam in which the student will be given 7 days to write a paper of 8–10 pages on a topic or questions provided by the instructor (fixed exam). The exam should be submitted by Tuesday January 16, 2018 (midnight). The exam will be distributed by noon on Wednesday, January 9.

As part of the requirements for the course the student is required to submit weekly assignments. The total number of weekly assignments is 7 and the student must complete a minimum of 6. If the student has not handed in the required number of e-learning assignments, the remaining assignments must be handed in along with the exam paper.

Re-exam

There are two opportunities to do a re-exam, 1) mid-term 2018, or 2) the end of August 2018. The student must register for those exams by sending an e-mail to one of the instructors three weeks prior to the exam date.

Learning Outcomes

The following represent the most important aspects of the learning outcomes. More details may be found in the RRE study plan: <http://religious-studies.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/RRE-Study-Plan-2017.pdf>

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge outcomes

- briefly describe the different historical, cultural and societal contexts in which Judaism, Christianity and Islam emerged
- briefly describe the sacred texts of the three religions and their reception (interpretive history)
- provide examples of how the three religions developed in relation to each other and the surrounding society

Skill Outcomes

- analyze and compare important ideas and typical features of all three religions
- discuss religious identities and the factors that contribute to their emergence
- critically approach the polemical character of many source texts and their description of historical processes
- independently and critically discuss the description of the emergence and development of the three religions in secondary sources

Prerequisites

The same as for the program in general

Plagiarism

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to Lund University Libraries guidelines for Academic Integrity, located at <http://www.lub.lu.se/en/services-and-activities/student-support/academic-writing/academic-integrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examination