

LINKÖPINGS UNIVERSITET
Department of Culture and Communication
Religious Studies
Fall 2021

Terrorism, Violence, and Religion, 7,5 ECTS

Course Code 790G67, 790G86, 790G87, 93RE63

Religion, våld och terrorism, 7,5 hp

Teacher:

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AIM OF THE COURSE

After completion of the course the student should be able to:

- Clarify religious understandings and use of violence
- Describe similarities and differences within and between these traditions when it comes to the understanding of the use of violence
- Identify, analyze, and problematize the relation between religion and the use of violence through some concrete examples.

CONTENTS

This course is an introduction to the relationship between religion and politics with specific focus on the use of violence. A description and analysis of the use of violence in the name of religion, of arguments for and against the use of violence, and of the contemporary debate on religion and violence is emphasized, traditions, in both established religions but also in other new religious traditions.

TEACHING

The course is seminar and lecture based. The students prepare their seminar participation through literature studies and paper writings, participate actively and constructively in the seminar discussions, and write a final paper.

EXAMINATION

The basis for the examination will be one seminar papers and a final paper.

1. In the *first paper* (1,300-1,500 words in lengths, excluding footnotes) the student need to discuss a present-day expression and legitimation of violence within an established religious culture. The discussion should start from an emic perspective with a focus on how the chosen group express their goals and perceived moral right to use violence within the specific context:

Against whom is violence legitimate and on what grounds? How do they argue against those within their religious setting that is potentially against the use of violence? In what ways do they perceive the use of violence as a religiously grounded decree? What use is made of religious scriptures, and how?

Summarize your 'case-study' with a reflection of the groups potential problems within their religious setting regarding their use of legitimizing arguments.

This paper must be handed in on **November 8**.

2. *The final paper:*

Not later than on **Nov. 15**, at 6 PM, the students need to send a e-proposal to fredrik.gregorius@liu.se that includes **a topic** for the final paper and at least three relevant and primary sources that should be used in this paper. The paper could for example discuss a case from a current situation in the world where religion seems to be a part in the conflict; It could describe and discuss different kinds of response to violence in a religious; It could be a analyzes of theories in different religions; It could be an general discussion of the relationship between religion and violence; Or the student could choose a subject on their own. But the teachers will decide if the topic is accepted and return the answer to the student. A hard copy must be handed in and also an e-version of the final paper must be sent to Fredrik.Gregorius.liu@analys.urkund.se on **24 November**, at noon.

3. At the *final seminar* on November 25 the students must be prepared to present her/his paper, arguments and conclusions. Each student will have no more than 7-10 minutes at their disposal. The final paper should count 4,500-5,000 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography.

Style of the final paper

Margins: One-inch margins on all four sides.

Font Style: Times, Times New Roman or Calibri

Font Size: 11 or 12. *Spacing:* 1,5 or 1,15.

Citation Format: Footnotes only. Do not use the social science citation method.

Footnote and Bibliography Style:

Book

Bernard M. Levinson, *Deuteronomy and the Hermeneutics of Legal Innovation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), 240-245.

[Short form or subsequent citation: Pegg, 247]

Edited Book

Peter Brown and Henry Shue, eds., *Food Policy: The Responsibility of the United States in the Life and Death of Choices* (New York: Free Press, 1977), chap. 3.

[Short form or subsequent citation: Brown & Shue, 147]

Chapter in Edited Book

Alan Ryan, "Liberalism," in *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, ed. Robert Goodin and Philip Pettit (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1993), 24-60.

Article in Journal

Lance Banning, "Jeffersonian Ideology Revisited: Liberal and Classical Ideas in the New American Republic," *William and Mary Quarterly* 43 (January 1986), 12-16.

Electronic Source

Bruce Pegg, *National Writing Centers Association, Resources for Writers*, August 4, 1998 [Online]. Available at <http://departments.colgate.edu/diw/NWCA/Resources.html> [March, 2012]. [Short form or subsequent citation: Pegg, *Resources for Writers*, paragraph 3.]

PLAGIARISM

Make sure you have read and understood the "Code of Honor" at Linköping University (<http://www.liu.se/insidan/strategier/hederskodex?sc=true&l=en>), and the rules concerning plagiarism - See *A Short Guide About Plagiarism & Copyright* (<http://www.bibl.liu.se/upphovsratt-och-plagiering/upphovsratt-och-plagiering/1.292346/BroschyrPlagieringEn.pdf>) and information on "Disciplinary measures" (<http://www.student.liu.se/regler-rattigheter-sakerhet/lagar-regler-rattigheter/disciplinarenden?l=en>).

LITTERATURE

The following texts are required reading in this course.

William T. Cavanaugh, *The Myth of Religious Violence* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 3–122, 181–230 (170 pages).

* John D. Carlson, "Religion and Violence: Coming to Terms with the Terms" in Andrew R. Murphy ed., *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), 7-21.

John L. Esposito, *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

* Amritha Venkatraman, "Religious Basis for Islamic Terrorism: The Quran and Its Interpretations" *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 30/3 (2007), 229–248.

Rudolph Peters, *Jihad: A History in Documents* (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishing, 2015).
Zionism

Gershom Gorenberg, *End of Days: Fundamentalism and the Struggle for the Temple Mount* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Lewis, James R (red) (2014) *Controversial New Religions*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014) (selected parts)

Tittles with * are available through Lisam. Additional articles will be available for the final paper.

Summary of topics

2/11 Lecture 1 Introduction to the course

4/11 Lecture 2 The Myth of Religious Violence (About Cavanaugh)

4/11 Lecture 3 Violence within Islam

8/11 Lecture 4 Violence within Islam

8/11 Hand in first paper

9/11 Lecture 5 Violence within Christianity and Judaism (Focus on apocalyptic movements)

9/11 Lecture 6 Violence within Hinduism

11/11 Lecture 7 Violence within New Religions

15/11 Send in topic proposal for final paper

24/11 Final seminar 10-16