

## **Course Syllabus** for **Religion, Society and Cultural Pluralism, 5 credits**

### **Constitution of the course of studies**

This syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department for Diacony and Theology, Ersta-Sköndal University College on June 7, 2005. The course forms part of the Church of Sweden lay welfare worker training carried out by Ersta-Sköndal University College in co-operation with Vårsta Diaconic Centre.

### **Educational objectives**

- to give the students an understanding of the role of religion in the Swedish society and how the various Faiths express themselves in social life
- to give an understanding of the individual in a Faith-psychological perspective, with special attention paid to diaconic practice
- to give the students a deeper understanding of and ability to communicate with persons of different religious and cultural backgrounds.

### **Course content**

The course offers the theories and perspectives required to understand and critically assess the role of religion in the Swedish society. In particular focus is the relationship between religion, power and oppression. Religious Sweden is presented with special emphasis on Islam and New Age spiritual movements. Also treated are the psychological aspects of the Faiths of modern humanity. The course pays attention to the genus perspective.

### **Methods of instruction**

Instruction is in the form of lectures, textbook seminars, and group work.

### **Attendance**

Attendance at lectures and seminars is obligatory. Absence of more than 20 per cent but less than 35 per cent may be compensated for by completion of special assignments. In the event of an absence of 35 per cent or more, the student is required to attend missed lectures and/or seminars the next time the course is given.

### **Examination and grading**

The course is graded through an individual written examination. The grades given are pass with distinction, pass or fail.

### **Textbooks**

- Frisk, Liselotte (1998), *Nyreligiositet I Sverige: ett religionsvetenskapligt perspektiv*, Nora: Nya Doxa
  - Geels, A & Wikström, O (1999), *Den religiösa människan*, Lund: Plus Ultra
  - Hedin, C (1994), *Islam i vardagen och i världen*, Stockholm: Arena
  - Hewitt, John P (2003), *Self and Society – A Symbolic Interactionist Social Psychology*, Boston MA: Allyn & Bacon
  - Svanberg, I & Westerlund, D (1999), *Blågul islam? Muslimer i Sverige*, Nora: Nya Doxa
- Current articles will be added to the above.