



Master Program in Religion, Politics, and Democracy

120 higher education credits (Two Years)

Master i religion, politik och demokrati
120 högskolepoäng

Enskilda högskolan Stockholm
Stockholm School of Theology

Program Syllabus

Beslutsfattare	Beslutsdatum	Giltighetstid	Dokumenttyp
Ämnesföreläsar- kollegiet	2020-01-22	2020-01-22 och tills vidare	Utbildningsplan

1. Goals

1.1. Description of the Education on Advanced Level

The program is offered at an advanced level and aims to provide knowledge and skills in theology with specialization in *Religion, Politics and Democracy*. A master's degree in the program prepares for postgraduate education.

The training provides knowledge that can be used by various professional groups where knowledge of *Religion, Politics and Democracy* is necessary. It also gives knowledge of the history of the relation between Religion and Democracy within Christianity. The education can also be a vocational preparation or further education for priests and educators.

The program at the master's level is essentially based on the knowledge that the students gain in the program at the undergraduate level at the university or equivalent knowledge from another university. The Master's degree program provides the students with deepened competence, in comparison with previous studies:

- Significantly increased in-depth knowledge, skills and abilities;
- Significantly increased ability to independently, critically and systematically integrate and use knowledge;
- Significantly increased ability to handle complex phenomena, issues and situations;
- Significantly developed conditions for professional activities that place great demands on independence and creativity or research and development work;
- Ability to critically, independently and creatively contribute to the development of knowledge;
- Ability to present and discuss their research nationally and internationally.

1.2. Objectives according to national degree description

Knowledge and understanding

For the master's degree, the student should:

- Show knowledge and understanding in Religion, Politics and Democracy, including both broad knowledge in the field and in-depth insight into current research and development work;
- Show substantial in-depth knowledge of methodology within Religion, Politics, and Democracy.

Skills and Abilities

For the master's degree, the student should:

- Demonstrate the ability to critically integrate knowledge and to analyze, assess and manage complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information;
- Demonstrate the ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues, to plan and execute qualified tasks within given time frames, thereby contributing to the development of knowledge and to evaluate this work;
- Demonstrate the ability, in both national and international contexts, to clearly and verbally and in writing give an account of and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments that underlie them in dialogue with different groups;
- Demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development work or to work independently in other qualified activities.

Evaluation ability and approach

For the master's degree, the student should:

- Demonstrate the ability to make judgments with regard to relevant scholarly, social and ethical aspects within Religion, Politics and Democracy and show an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- Show insight into the possibilities and limitations of the current topic, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used;
- Demonstrate the ability to identify their need for additional knowledge and to take responsibility for their knowledge development.

1.3. Local goals

The new M.Th. program in *Religion, Politics and Democracy*, aims at educating future professionals and scholars for understanding the relationship between religious ideas and institutions, and the public sphere.

Religion remains one of the key forces in today's world. Christianity continues to be a factor which influences social dynamics and political ideas and ideologies. At the same time, churches are influenced by the dominant social, cultural and political processes to which they are exposed. This program explores the interaction and mutual influences between theological ideas, religious beliefs and practices and, on the other hand, modern secular society and the contemporary globalization processes. Approaching these phenomena, the courses in this program will help students learn about how theology and church practice relate to the ever changing social and political environments, how ideology (both within the church and in society) structures our perception of the social sphere, and

how one can engage with the social and political contexts and democratic processes in a constructive and creative way.

The program equips students with theoretical knowledge, critical analysis and writing skills necessary for their future work as professionals (e.g. educators, ministers, public servants, analysts, NGO personnel and activists) or researchers (at Ph.D. level).

Overall Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate graduate-level competencies in Christian Theology and, in particular, in the domain in which religious ideas intersect with politics and democracy
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the major theological and political ideas that shape Christian political theology, both traditional and contemporary
- Formulate relevant arguments and produce graduate-level papers
- Describe and analyze Christianity in the present social, cultural and political context

Acquired Competencies and skills

A student who obtains a master's degree in Religion, Politics, and Democracy shall through existing courses and an independent degree project:

- Develop an understanding of and knowledge of Religion, Politics and Democracy, including both a broad knowledge and in-depth knowledge in certain areas of the subject;
- Have substantially in-depth knowledge of the methodology used in the subject, and a broader insight into current research and development work;
- Be able to critically and systematically integrate knowledge from a practical theological perspective and handle complex phenomena, issues, situations and basic contexts, even on the basis of limited information;
- Have the ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues within given time frames and, by using appropriate methods, carry out qualified assignments and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge, and in addition, demonstrate the ability to evaluate this work;
- When expected, be able to critically, creatively and independently develop and shape knowledge of the subject in various church-, academic and other social contexts;
- Be able to clearly and orally, and in writing, both in national and international contexts, explain and discuss their conclusions, arguments and the knowledge that form the basis for dialogue with different target groups;
- Be able to independently participate in research and development work or other qualified analytical tasks;
- Show great insight into the possibilities and limitations of knowledge and science in academia, church and society, people's responsibility for the use of knowledge, and show insight into ethical aspects of research and development work;

- Show in-depth ability to take responsibility for their need for continued knowledge-development.

The progression within the master program can be described as follows:

- Significantly increased competence in the area;
- Significantly increased familiarity with and safety in the use of relevant scholarly theories and methods in the field;
- Significantly increased ability to communicate scholarly results in both national and international society;
- Substantially increased independence and deepened analytical and theoretical insights;
- Significantly increased the ability to develop and shape knowledge in the field.

2. Program

The program provides a qualified and substantially in-depth education in Religion, Politics and Democracy and includes four semester studies for the Master's degree.

In addition to literature studies, the courses are usually a combination of lectures and seminar exercises. Lectures at the master's level provide significantly broadened and in-depth perspectives and insights, while seminar exercises aim to train the student to make independent, creative and critical assessments, as well as to independently and flexibly distinguish, formulate and solve qualified problems.

The studies conclude with a degree project of at least 30 higher education credits.

3. Exam

The program leads to a master's degree in theology with a focus on Religion, Politics, and Democracy. The master's degree is obtained after the student has completed the course requirements for 120 higher education credits.

The master's degree must include courses of at least 15 higher education credits from the 400-level in Religion, Politics, and Democracy and at least 15 higher education credits from

the 500-level in Religion, Politics and Democracy, and a degree project on at least 30 higher education credits in the same subject and chosen profile.

30 higher education credits from another relevant area can be included in the degree. 30 higher education credits from undergraduate level can be included in the degree.

4. Eligibility

Eligible to be admitted to the program at the advanced level in Religion, Politics, and Democracy is the one who has approved courses for a Bachelor's degree in Theology/Religious Studies, comprising 180 higher education credits, or any other relevant Bachelor's degree, where at least 60 higher education credits consist of Religious Studies/Theology including a thesis of 15 higher education credits. Students with other relevant subjects or the corresponding foreign degree may be admitted after special examination.

Students may also be admitted to later parts of the program (61-120 credits) after a special application, provided that the relevant prerequisites are met.

Applicants from previous educational systems are eligible if they have a Bachelor's degree in Theology/Religious Studies, at least 120 credits, of which at least 40 credits are Religious Studies/Theology including a thesis of 10 credits. Students with other relevant subjects may be admitted after special examination.

Students from outside Sweden, or students who cannot verify, proficiency in English, are required to make an internationally recognized test, e. g. TOEFL, IELTS or equivalent.

5. Examination

Written exams, PMs (written assignments), various forms of examinatory seminars and degree projects are used as examinations. Examination of thesis work takes place through the elements of the thesis work itself, defense of it, opposition to another student's thesis and active participation in other seminars during the thesis work.

6. Grades

Unless otherwise stated in the syllabus for a particular course, one of the terms A – F (A = Outstanding, B = Very good, C = Good, D = Satisfactory, E = Adequate, Fx = Insufficient, supplementary possible, F = Inadequate) must be used as grades. Those who pass the tests cannot resit for a higher grade.