

Welcome to

University College Stockholm

Stockholm School of Theology

Courses in English - Spring Semester 2020

- Apocrypha and Apocalypse
- Robots and Humans. Theology for a Post-Human World
- History of Eastern Christianity: The Church after the Soviet Union and the Arabic Spring
- The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities



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Go abroad to deepen your understanding of religion and human rights in the contemporary world!

The wheels of modern life are spinning fast, and our lives are filled both with opportunities and challenges. A semester at the University College Stockholm offers you the chance to explore a number of these, particularly as they relate to religion in the public square, the relationship between religion and Artificial Intelligence, as well as the Digitilization of the modern societies, human rights for ethnic minorities in a conflict-filled world, the present situation for churches in Eastern Christianity, and the importance of the non-canonical and apocalyptic texts for understanding the emergence of early Judaism and Christianity. The questions dealt with include:

- what does the relationship between humans and the machine look like in the age of Artificial Intelligence, and which ethical issues does it give rise to?
- what do human rights mean for ethnic minorities in times of globalization and nationalism?
- how have Eastern Christian Churches affected, and been affected by, political developments connected to the fall of the Soviet Union and the Arabic spring?
- in the melting pot emerging between the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the New Testament and rabbinic times, which specific traits and theologies influenced early Judaism and Christianity?

Each spring semester we offer a full-time program in English for which international students are invited to apply. In particular, students from our international academic partners are invited. The courses will be examined either at the master's level or at the bachelor's.

Apocrypha and Apocalypse, 7.5 Credits

During the Second Temple period, a large number of Jewish texts, representing a wide variety of genres, were produced in Hebrew as well as in Aramaic and Greek. These texts were never included in the emerging canon of the Hebrew Bible, although some received a place in the Greek Old Testament and a few made their way into other Christian traditions. The role of these apocryphal texts in early Judaism and Christianity alike is often underestimated. In this course, a selection of apocryphal texts is studied with special emphasis on their continuity and relationship with earlier and later Jewish and Christian Scripture. Their specific traits and theologies are analyzed and their influence on Jewish and Christian tradition is highlighted. Special emphasis is given to the apocalyptic genre, its mythological roots, and the beliefs and streams of thought it represents. Texts with apocalyptic features are analyzed with the help of cognitive metaphor theories and with philosophy of religion models for the use and function of mythopoetic language.

At the end of the course, the student is expected to:

- clearly and systematically account for the roots of apocryphal literature, its relationship to Jewish and Christian Scripture, and its role in the development of early Jewish and Christian tradition and theology
- be able to critically analyze apocryphal texts, especially in view of their social, political, and religious contexts
- display an in-depth understanding of the state of research regarding apocalypticism as genre and phenomenon
- demonstrate ability to independently read and investigate apocalyptic texts with mythopoetic models and metaphor theory, focusing particularly on world views and values.

Robots and Humans. Theology for a Post-Human World, 7.5 Credits

Ever since antiquity, philosophers and artists have considered the relations between tools, machines such as AI-systems and humans. Today, our lives are dependent on advanced technologies that humans in several ways are subordinated to them. This poses new challenges to theology. Theology has also wrestled with questions about what a human being is, but not very often in relation to the advanced technology. Where does the boundary between man and machine go? Is there a creation theology even for robots and cyborgs? Should one bury a prosthesis? This course examines the contribution from philosophy of technology, the relationship between man and machine and ethical challenges facing advanced technology. In parallel with the theories, theological close-ups are made of fictional examples of utopias and dystopias in the world of technology.

At the end of the course, the student is expected to:

- have a good ability to identify and analyze central issues in philosophy of technology and theological theories of technological challenges
- be able to critically argue for an ethical position on human dignity in relation to technology
- constructively demonstrate the ability to contribute with theological analyzes of contemporary technological conditions
- reflect critically on methods and theories about ethical and theological perspectives on technology.

History of Eastern Christianity: The Church after the Soviet Union and the Arabic Spring, 7.5 Credits

The course provides a deeper understanding of the development of Eastern Christianity, with a special emphasis on the development in the late twentieth century and the early twenty-first. The course takes into account especially how the fall of the Soviet Union and the Arabic Spring was influenced by the eastern churches, and how it affected them. Furthermore, the course provides an introduction to methods in church history with a particular emphasis on the historical-critical methods, source criticism and archive research.

At the end of the course, the student is expected to:

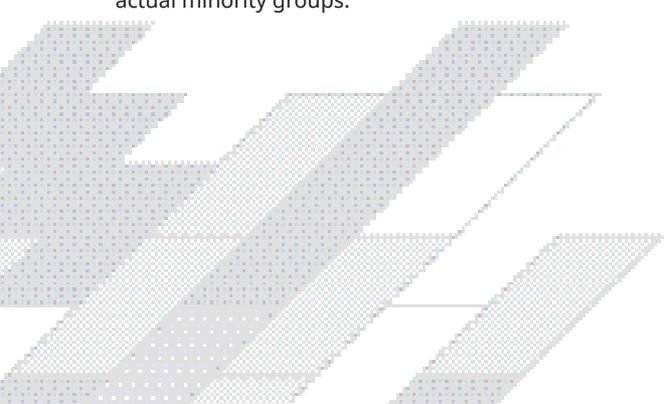
- be able to describe the various Eastern Christian Churches and their involvement in the political events
- display considerable insight in understanding how theology may have an impact on political events
- of the History of Eastern Christianity after the fall of Constantinople to the present day with particular emphasis on the development after the fall of the USSR, the development associated with the Arabic Spring, and the recent events in Ukraine
- display competence in handling key methodological issues in church history and be able to make a critical analysis of a source text.

The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities, 7.5 Credits

This course addresses the human rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, taking up contemporary tensions such as religious, social and political conditions, between national sovereignty and collective and individual rights, as well as questions of identity. Significant emphasis is placed on the arguments that have been asserted by actual minority groups.

At the end of the course, the student is expected to:

- show a comprehensive understanding of how indigenous peoples as well as the rights of ethnic and national minorities are defined in international law
- with good understanding of the theoretical framework critically discuss how these rights relate to the nation-state and to democracy
- demonstrate independent thinking and competence in undertaking research on indigenous peoples' relationship to majority populations and cultural frameworks
- show a comprehensive understanding of the situation of indigenous peoples in Scandinavia and the world.





University College Stockholm/Enskilda Högskolan Stockholm (EHS) offers programs at both undergraduate (bachelor's) and postgraduate (master's) levels in both theology and human rights, as well as doctoral programs in theology. EHS is the major provider of religious and human rights education in the Stockholm region.

EHS is one of the country's leading institutions for training ministers for various denominations at the Stockholm School of Theology. Studies in human rights at the Stockholm School of Human Rights provide tools to enable justice and to fight against various forms of discrimination and oppression. EHS is also active in various parts of the world, supporting work towards democracy and peace.

The university college has a unique study environment and is one of the country's most distinguished theological and human rights institutions, where students from various backgrounds, different faith traditions and convictions meet.

Located in Bromma, a few kilometres from the center of Stockholm and close to the Castle of Åkeshof and its nature reserve, EHS is a place for intensive study and reflection. In addition, there are convenient connections to central Stockholm within a few minutes' walk, via the Metro system.

HOW TO APPLY?

Detailed information can be found on www.ehs.se. For enquiries, contact the assistant director of studies Josef Forsling:
Phone: +46(0)8-564 357 16. Email: josef.forsling@ehs.se. Read also www.studyinsweden.se.
Last day to complete the application is October 15th.

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