



teologiska
högskolan
stockholm

Stockholm School of Theology

Program in English



**SPRING
2012**

www.ths.se

Welcome to Stockholm School of Theology (THS)

In the spring semester 2012 we are offering the following full time program in English. Students from abroad are invited as well as people living in Sweden. Students from our International academic partners are especially invited.

The courses can be examined at either the Bachelor's or the Master's level. More detailed information can be found on www.ths.se.

January - March

■ Theology by Necessity: Change, Crisis and Development in Biblical Theology

Biblical texts have often been produced as results of profound theological crisis. These in turn have a background in historical events or processes that forces the different and more appropriate theological constructions. This course aims to analyze the mechanisms of change that has taken place in such processes. The purpose is to illustrate how a theology can be a product of a particular situation, and that the texts in such situations often change both in scope and interpretation. The course covers a number of examples where these mechanisms of change have been particularly transformative in text and theology, such as the exile and the absence of the temple, hellenistic influence, the Roman occupation, Jesus' crucifixion, the so-called delayment of the parousia, and the growing gap between early Judaism and the early Christian movement. The course also aims to stress the responsibility of the interpreter in the light of these changes.

■ The Rights of Indigenous People and Ethnic Minorities

Dilemmas related to human rights are often at their most difficult in relation to indigenous peoples' and ethnic minorities' traditions and religious practices, as well as their social and political circumstances. This course addresses the human rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, taking up contemporary tensions 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



After the course the student should (master level):

- be able to demonstrate profound knowledge of the historical crises that led to fundamental changes in the theology of biblical texts and their interpretations
- show an ability to creatively and independently formulate and discuss issues and tasks that contribute to the understanding of how biblical texts have been shaped
- be able to speak and write clearly about and account for the relationship between social crisis and theological development of the biblical texts, and discuss the results, both nationally and internationally
- have an understanding of research into social change mechanisms underlying the formation and re-interpretation of religious texts and biblical texts in particular, and demonstrate an ability to assess research with both theological and ethical implications.

After the course the student should (master level):

- show a detailed understanding of how indigenous peoples as well as ethnic and national minorities are defined in international law, as well as what rights minorities have and how they are distinct from the rights of indigenous peoples
- show a sound understanding of the theoretical framework defining the relationship between ethnic minorities, the nation state and democracy and be prepared to analyze specific situations and frame arguments based on this framework
- 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.

■ **Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the New Testament**

Many psychologists and sociologists would say that both reconciliation and forgiveness are absolutely necessary for meaningful long-term interaction in any group and any culture. In the Ancient world, however, forgiveness was often considered vicious rather than virtuous among Greeks and Romans. They usually managed reconciliation in other ways. In the Hebrew Bible, on the other hand, forgiveness, mercy and reconciliation are important concepts, particularly in relation to God. The New Testament continues the Jewish tradition in many ways but also develops it. The goal of this course is to understand how Jesus and his earliest followers understood forgiveness, mercy and reconciliation. How did they consider their relation to God in these terms? How did they practice forgiveness in the group and toward others? How can we understand forgiveness in the New Testament in the light of modern research on forgiveness and in the light of Ancient views on forgiveness? What are the theological and ethical implications of the New Testament's discourses on forgiveness and reconciliation?

■ **Christians of the Middle East**

Many Christians have left the Middle East. A considerable number of them have come to Sweden. This course is concentrated partly upon Christian churches in the Middle East, partly upon the presence of Christians from the Middle East living in Sweden. The course is partially located to Jerusalem in cooperation with Bilda Christian Study Centre there. Contacts will be taken with representatives of churches in Israel and Palestine. Concerning the presence of Christians from the Middle East in Sweden the course treats sociologically interesting factors like migration and religion, adaptation to another culture than the original, the function of religion as identity sustaining and tradition maintenance.

After the course the student should (master level):

- be able to discuss how the New Testament concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation may be seen as influenced by and reacting against similar discourses in the Ancient Mediterranean world
- be able to analyze the theology of forgiveness and reconciliation in New Testament texts, including discussions about the Greek (and, to some extent, Hebrew) terminology
- be able to discuss the group dynamic and ethical implications of the New Testament's discourse on forgiveness and reconciliation, using analytical tools from contemporary research on forgiveness and reconciliation

After the course the student should (master level):

- display a thorough knowledge about the religious map of the Middle East, especially according to Christian churches
- have a significantly deepened ability to reflect on the functions of religion as resource, identity and motive power in the political and social realities of the Middle East based on one's own experience
- be able to analyse and articulate a comprehensive understanding of the greatness and the problems of being a Christian where Jesus was living and acting
- be able to independently and constructively identify and analyze problems connected to religion and migration, such as tradition maintenance, identity and adaptation.



Stockholm School of Theology is an independent university college with two programs accredited by the Swedish Board of Higher Education. About 600 students enroll in the Theological Program and in the Human Rights and Democracy Program.

THS is one of the country's leading institutions for training pastors and priests. Studies in Human Rights provide tools for justice and for work against different forms of discrimination and oppression. THS is also active in different parts of the world to support work for democracy and peace.

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

THS is located at the edge of a nature reserve near Brommaplan that has underground transportation, T-bana (19 minutes to Central Station) and a hub for buses that serve the western part of Stockholm, Arlanda airport and the islands of Mäläröarna.



APPLICATION

Detailed information can be found on www.ths.se.

For application, contact the Study Councillor:
Marianne Källberg.
Tel +46(0)8-564 357 03
marianne.kallberg@ths.se

Application for overseas students should be no later than September 15 and for Swedish students no later than October 15.

Stockholms stads
miljödiplom



THS has been awarded Stockholm Environmental Diploma.

Stockholm School of Theology

Åkeshovsvägen 29, SE-168 39 Bromma, Sweden
tel: +46-(0)8-564 357 00 fax: +46-(0)8-564 357 06
ths@ths.se, www.ths.se



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