

## Saint Birgitta and the City of God (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY

Course ID: 0317

### Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

### Educational goals

After completing the course the students should:

- Be able to understand the notion of political theology, its origin and development within the Christian Middle Ages.
- Be familiar with Birgitta's political and social writings, and show general understanding of their historical and theological context.
- Be able to give an account of Augustine's *De Civitate Dei* and its place in the history of Christian political theology.
- Be able to reflect on the influence of Medieval political theology on contemporary Western political thought.

### Course content

This course explores political theology of St. Birgitta of Sweden (1303–1373) as presented in her own writings, *The Revelations*, read in Swedish and English translation, consulting the original Latin version. Are Birgitta's political and social ideas still relevant for today's Christian communities? Or are they just a token of good old Middle Ages? As we progress with these questions, we direct our focus to one of Birgitta's sources of inspiration, Augustine's *City of God*.

### Teaching and examination

The course is partly taught online via the Moodle platform, where there will be weekly reading assignments throughout the course. During the two in-person weekend sessions, lectures and discussions of the source texts will take place. Examination will take the form of a written assignment (around 10 pages) due on the last weekend of the course.

## **Bibliography**

- Arendt, Hannah, and Jerome Kohn. 2005. *The promise of politics*. 1st ed. New York: Schocken Books.
- Arendt, Hannah, Joanna Vecchiarelli Scott, and Judith Chelius Stark. 1996. *Love and Saint Augustine*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Augustine, and R. W. Dyson. 1998. *The city of God against the pagans, Cambridge texts in the history of political thought*. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Augustine, and R. W. Dyson. 2001. *The pilgrim city: social and political ideas in the writings of St. Augustine of Hippo*. Woodbridge, Suffolk, UK ; Rochester, NY: Boydell Press.
- Bridget, Denis Michael Searby, and Bridget Morris. 2006. *The revelations of St. Birgitta of Sweden Volume 4: the heavenly emperor's book to kings, the rule, and minor works*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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