

Marilynne Robinson (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Theological Studies in Culture and Society)

Course ID: 0410

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 having completed the course the students are expected to be able to:

- Contextualize the work of Marilynne Robinson in contemporary theological and social debates, focusing on specific issues.
- Carry out a close reading of literary passages and critically examine longer novels.
- Appreciate and reflect on the constructive relation between narrative and theology.
- Discuss biblical topics from a socio-anthropological viewpoint through Robinson's commentary on and uses of the Bible.
- Recognize key topics in interdenominational dialogue conducive to an ecumenical point of view.

Course content

Contemporary American writer Marilynne Robinson (1943–) is known for introducing religious topics to a broad, often secular audience. Writing from a Calvinist perspective, she has produced five novels and works of non-fiction, including a commentary on Genesis (2024). Her work provides an excellent framework to explore connections between narrative and theology. In this course, we read three books and a selection of her essays, concentrating on topics like education, the relation between science and religion, concepts of sin, grace, and finding God in daily life.

Teaching and examination

Besides the obligatory seminars, teaching will be on the Moodle platform with readings, lectures and shorter discussion threads. Assessment will take the form of participation in class discussion (25% of the final grade), one oral presentation (30% of the final grade) and one written assignment (1500-2000 words, 45% of the final grade).

Bibliography

Books by Marilynne Robinson:

Housekeeping (originally published in 1980)

Home (originally published in 2008)

Reading Genesis (originally published in 2024)

A selection of non-fiction essays in PDF

Criticism:

A selection of essays in PDF on the above titles.

Ryan S. Kemp and Jordan Rogers, *Marilynne Robinson's Wordly Gospel: A Philosophical Account of Her Christian Vision* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023).

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

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