Examination guide for RESA4203 «Moderne religionskritikk»

The course RESA4203 an overview of different types of critiques of religion and analyzes these. This includes classical critiques of religion such as Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, and Barth as well as current ones. Moreover, it addresses in what way critiques of religion become manifest in our current societies in different domains such as the mass media, politics, and science and how these reflect ideas of classical critiques of religion.

Students undertake a portfolio exam ("mappeeksamen"). The total amount of text should be between 3000 and 4000 words long. The portfolio consists of two items:

1. Case study of a critique of religion in current society: The study must include (a) a description of what form this critique assumes (e.g. piece of art, book), who is behind this critique (e.g. association), against what or whom it is directed, and in what context it is embedded (e.g. critical debate about abuse in a specific religious organization), (b) a summary of the arguments and ideas that the critique entails and to what reactions the critique led, and (c) a discussion of how this case relates to classical or other modern critiques of religion, quoting from the course reading list (2000-2500 words) (60%).
2. Reflection essay on a selected reading from the course that includes (a) a short summary of the text in own words, (b) discussion of the text in relationship to at least three other texts from the reading list and (c) a critical reflection of the text. The reflection essay is based on the reflection note (see mandatory assignments) and can be submitted in the form of text (1000-1500 words) (40%).

The two tasks involve parts in which the student related to knowledge from the readings in the course.

Important criteria for the evaluation should be:

In terms of the tasks, the readings and use of knowledge

- Both items/tasks of the portfolio must be submitted.
- All subtasks of the two items should be answered. If one subtask remains unanswered without reason, examinants may consider lowering the grade.
- The submitted portfolio need to reflect the tasks in terms of its scope. If the submitted texts go beyond the subtasks and show no clear relationship to the them, examinants may consider lowering the grade.
- Responses need to consider the readings from the reading list and relate to some selected readings. They can also take into account additional readings if they want. This may be positively considered by the examinants.
- The portfolio should summarize the relevant readings in a correct way.
- The tasks should be well-structured: To what extent is there a clear structure and a red line in the argument?
- Relevant questions for the examinants are also: To what extent does the student show the ability to summarize a given argument, idea or knowledge in a concise and understandable way?

In terms of formal criteria and consistency:

- The portfolio needs to include correct and consistent references of the given readings.

- Writing style must be clear and use the given terms in a correct and consistent way.
- The portfolio needs to be in the set word range of 3000 to 4000 words. For longer or shorter responses, examinants may consider lowering the grade.

In terms of critical reflection:

- Well-explained critical reflections on the readings and course content should be positively considered by the examinants. Potential questions that the examinants may ask with regard to this are (not all of these questions need to be answered positively for a good grading):
- To what extent does the student show the ability to reflect the text/knowledge/arguments and asks critical questions about it?
- To what extent does the student employ the learned knowledge to ask critical questions about issues, institutions and practices (e.g. political structures) in current societies?
- To what extent does the student show the ability to relate different texts, concepts or arguments to each other, to compare and weigh these?
- To what extent does the student show the ability to relate empirical findings in the case studies to theoretical texts and arguments?