PART ONE AT A GLANCE

People:
Course Convenors: Dr. Shuruq Naguib, (5)92426, B.67, County South.
Part I Co-ordinators: Gillian Taylor (5)92425, B.43, County South.
and Katherine Young (5)2710, B.46, County South.

Lectures:
Thursday 2.00pm - 4.00pm in Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre

Seminars:
One 50 minute seminar per week

Assessment:
50% Coursework (four essays)
50% Examination (four questions in three hours)

Essay Deadlines:
Essay One (Hinduism) Thursday 20 November 2014
Essay Two (Buddhism) Thursday 22 January 2015
Essay Three (Christianity) Thursday 26 February 2015
Essay Four (Islam) Thursday 30 April 2015

Course Books:
There is no single course book set for the entire course, but students may find
the following books helpful for introductory and/or background material:
Linda Woodhead, Hiroko Kawanami, Christopher Partridge & David Smith (eds.),
Ian S. Markham & Tinu Ruparell (eds.), *Encountering Religion: An Introduction to
Mark C. Taylor (ed.), *Critical Terms for Religious Studies* (Chicago, University of
RST 100 RELIGIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD

GENERAL INFORMATION

Religious Studies is located in County South. The Part I Co-ordinators, Gillian and Katherine, look after RSt 100 World Religions. Gillian can be found in Room B.43, Katherine can be found in Room B.46. Both can deal with general queries about the course.

The Course Convenor is Dr Shuruq Naguib. Any serious problems relating to the course must be communicated to her.

Seminars will be led by postgraduate teaching assistants, and because you will have regular weekly contact with an assistant you should approach him or her in the first instance if you are having difficulties, or need advice relating to the course.

Two student representatives for Part One Religious Studies are elected at the start of each year from amongst the Religious Studies Majors. Their names and email addresses will be circulated, or they may be contacted via Gillian.

The Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr Brian Garvey oversees the whole undergraduate teaching programme and may be consulted if students have any queries or comments relating to this.

All members of academic staff, as well as the Teaching Assistants, have Office Hours during Term, and these will be displayed outside their office doors.

Director of Undergraduate Studies       Dr Brian Garvey       (5)94669
                                        Email: b.garvey@lancaster.ac.uk

Course Convenor                         Dr Shuruq Naguib       (5)92426
                                        Email: shuruqnaguib@lancaster.ac.uk

Part I Co-ordinators                   Gillian Taylor         (5)92425
                                        Email: g.taylor@lancaster.ac.uk
                                        Katherine Young        (5)92710
                                        Email: k.young1@lancaster.ac.uk
THE COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The world's major religious traditions have, for centuries, provided diverse cultural responses to some of the most fundamental questions arising from our experience of life. These include such questions as 'Who am I?' 'Why am I here?', 'Where am I going?', 'What does it all mean?' These ancient existential questions continue to be of abiding significance in the contemporary world. Thus, it is said that these questions are as old as history, and yet as new as the New Age.

This course will introduce you to four of the world's major religious traditions, looking particularly at the diverse ways in which they answer such questions. It provides an outline of the growth and development of these traditions and their primary characteristics, and subsequently considers some of the various forms they take in the contemporary world.

After a general introduction to the study of religion, the course is divided into five sections. The first four sections reflect on four major religious traditions – Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. The first two lectures of these sections will set each religion in context and set out the varieties of its beliefs. The third and fourth lectures will explore religious ethics and practice, and examine some of the contemporary issues facing these religions today.

The fifth section, in the summer term, will bring the previous four sections together by providing a cross-cultural and inter-religious examination of some of the key issues for the study of religion in the modern world, such as gender and politics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

On successful completion of this course, you will have acquired a comprehensive range of skills that are both discipline specific and transferable.

With regard to the discipline specific skills, you will be able to:
● summarise the key events, individuals and developments in the origins and formation of the four major religious traditions;

● relate these developments and characteristics to contemporary cultural and political contexts;

● read, articulate and contextualise primary sacred texts from the four major religious traditions in an historically responsible fashion;

● articulate and evaluate the various and diverse methodologies intrinsic to the study of religion in the modern world.

With regard to transferable skills, you will have acquired the following:

● **Skills in reading and note taking.**
  These skills will be developed at all stages of the course, but especially in the preparation of the essays.

● **Skills in research and writing.**
  These skills will be developed at all stages of the course, but particularly in the preparation of the essays and in the preparation for the group presentation.

● **Skills in collaborative research and oral presentation.**
  These skills will be developed in the course of preparing for and delivering a group oral presentation during the designated seminar sessions.

● **Skills in examination preparation and technique.**
  These skills will be consolidated and developed in the final part of the course. Week 3 and Week 4 of the Summer term are devoted to revision and examination preparation.

● **Further Information**
  For further information about university resources and services, including support for learning, library use and careers advice, please see the Department’s Undergraduate Handbook. This also contains information about grading and marking criteria, and all members of staff in the Department.
TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Lectures
There is one lecture each week on Thursday from 2.00 pm - 4.00 p.m. in the Marcus Merriman Lecture Theatre. The lecture is usually divided into two parts with a brief interval between them.

Seminars
Each student attends one seminar per week. The seminar lasts for 50 minutes, and is led by a postgraduate teaching assistant. These seminars are designed to clarify important issues covered during the lectures, and to stimulate further reflection and discussion. All seminar readings will be contained in the 'Course Pack' which students will be required to buy at the beginning of the course.

ASSESSMENT

The formal course assessment is broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>12.5 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
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<td>Essay 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 4</td>
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Examinations
Examinations take place in the middle of the Summer term. The paper for RST100 lasts for three hours, and has five sections, relating to the five sections of the course. Students have to answer four questions from four separate sections of the course.

Essays
All students are required to write four essays which should be 1,500 words long. Each essay should not be significantly longer or shorter than this. You must write one essay on each of the four major religious traditions studied in the course, namely, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Essay One</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 7, Michaelmas Term</strong> (Thursday 20 November 2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Hinduism)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Essay Two</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 2, Lent Term</strong> (Thursday 22 January 2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Buddhism)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Essay Three</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 7, Lent Term</strong> (Thursday 26 February 2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Christianity)</td>
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<td><strong>Essay Four</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 2, Summer Term</strong> (Thursday 30 April 2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Islam)</td>
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You must always submit your essay by **12.00 noon**. Essays submitted after this time will be considered late. You must submit two copies of your essay. One should be printed and **posted** in the essay submission box opposite the lift in the Department. The other should be submitted **electronically** via Moodle. Instructions for electronic submission can be found in the Undergraduate Handbook. **Be aware that your essay will be considered late if you do not submit both paper and electronic copy by the deadline.** Please note that, following a decision by the University Senate, there is now no period of grace: work that is even a day late, without good reason, will be penalised. Please also note that non-term time is also included when calculating the ‘lateness’ of essays.

Essays which do not contain a complete bibliography, or which do not use references, will be penalised as they fail to meet academic standards. Plagiarism (which is passing off someone else’s ideas or work as your own) will not be tolerated. For advice on writing essays and details of Departmental rules concerning the late submission of coursework see the Department’s *Undergraduate Handbook*. You are also encouraged to consult your tutor about your essay during his office hour, for instance to discuss feedback on your work.
Critical Reflection
Learning from feedback is a crucial part of developing as a student, and for your 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} essays, you will be required to write no more than a few sentences outside of the body of your essay, explaining how you think this essay is an improvement on your last one and the ways in which you have addressed feedback from your previous essay. For example, you might have improved your referencing or the structure of your argument. If you were commended for something in your previous essay, you may have attempted to build on that success in this essay. The reflection is compulsory, and will be taken into consideration as part of your final mark.

THE DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE
Course bibliographies and other details, together with Departmental notices, will be posted on the Departmental Website.
(http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/ppr/undergraduate/religstud/).

This site will also be used by the Student Representatives, and you will be able to contact the Representatives through the site.
SYLLABUS

MICHAELMAS TERM

LECTURES

INTRODUCTION – PROFESSOR KIM KNOTT

Week 1  Introducing religion

HINDUISM – PROFESSOR KIM KNOTT

Week 2  Hinduism in Context
Week 3  Varieties of Belief
Week 4  Ethics and Practice
Week 5  Essay Preparation Week
Week 6  Contemporary Issues in Hinduism

BUDDHISM – DR KOKO KAWANAMI

Week 7  Buddhism in Context
Week 8  Varieties of Belief
Week 9  Ethics and Practice
Week 10 Contemporary Issues in Buddhism
SYLLABUS

LENT TERM

LECTURES

CHRISTIANITY – DR ANDERSON JEREMIAH

Week 1  Christianity in Context
Week 2  Varieties of Belief
Week 3  Ethics and Practice
Week 4  Contemporary Issues in Christianity

ISLAM – DR SHURUQ NAGUIB

Week 5  Islam in Context
Week 6  Varieties of Belief
Week 7  *Essay Preparation Week*
Week 8  Ethics and Practice
Week 9  Contemporary Issues in Islam

RELIGION IN THE MODERN WORLD – Professor Linda Woodhead

Week 10  Secularization 1
SUMMER TERM

Week 1  Secularization 2
Week 2  Types of religion in the modern world
Week 3  Religion, Politics and Violence
Week 4  Religion, Gender and Sexuality

THE COURSE IN DETAIL

MICHAELMAS TERM

INTRODUCTION – PROFESSOR KIM KNOTT

LECTURE

Week 1: Introducing religion and the study of religion

SEMINAR

Week 1: Is the modern world a hostile environment for religion? What are the key issues for studying religion in modern contexts?

Week 1: Introductory Reading

THE COURSE IN DETAIL

MICHAELMAS TERM

HINDUISM – PROFESSOR KIM KNOTT

LECTURES

Week 2 Hinduism in Context
The history and definition of ‘Hinduism’

Week 3 Varieties of Belief
God and the gods

Week 4 Ethics and Practice
Dharma, karma and moksa: What is life for and how should it be lived?

Week 5 Essay Preparation/Reading Week

Week 6 Contemporary Issues in Hinduism
Is Hinduism a global religion?
SEMINARS

Week 2: Identify those features that are essential for defining ‘Hinduism’.

Week 3: Hindus: Are they monotheists or polytheists?

Week 4: What is the ideal way to live as a Hindu? Is it the same for men and women?

Week 6 In what ways has Hinduism in Britain changed in recent decades?

ESSAY TOPICS

1. What are the key issues in defining ‘Hinduism’?
   Klostermaier, K. *A Survey of Hinduism*, Chapters 2, 4 and 5.
   Flood, G. *Introduction to Hinduism*.
   Weightman, S. ‘Hinduism’, In *A New Handbook of Living Religions*.

2. How do Hindus understand and relate to the divine?
   Brockington, J. *The Sacred Thread*. Chapters 2, 3, 6, 10.
   Fuller, C. J. *The Camphor Flame. Popular Hinduism and Society in India*. Chapters 2, 3, 9.
3. **Define dharma, karma and moksa. Why are they important to Hindus?**

Grimes, J., Mittal, S. and Gene T. ‘Hindu Dharma’. In *Religions of South Asia: An Introduction*.

Hiltebeitel, A. *Dharma*.

Holdrege, B. A. ‘Dharma’, *The Hindu World*, See also chapters on ‘Karma’ and ‘Moksa’ in same book.


Klostermaier, K. *A Survey of Hinduism*. Chapters 9, 10, 12, 14.

Sharma, A. *Classical Hindu Thought*. Chapters on karma, dharma, moksa.

Younger, P. *Introduction to Indian Religious Thought*, Chapter. 2: Dharma, Chapter 8: Moksa.

4. **How has Hinduism changed as a result of the migration of Hindus to the West?**


Knott, K. ‘Becoming a “faith community”: British Hindus, identity, and the politics of representation’

Vertovec, S. *The Hindu Diaspora: Comparative Patterns*.

Waghorne, J. P. *Diaspora of the Gods: Modern Hindu Temples in an Urban Middle Class World*.

Zavos, J. ‘Hinduism’. In *Religion and Change in Modern Britain*, 121-130.

**GENERAL READING**


**FURTHER READING**

THE COURSE IN DETAIL

MICHAELMAS TERM

BUDDHISM – DR KOKO KAWANAMI

LECTURES

Week 7  Buddhism in Context
The History and Teaching(s) of the Buddha

Week 8  Varieties of Belief
The Dharma: Unity and Diversity

Week 9  Ethics and Practice
Buddhist Ethics and Devotional Practice

Week 10 Contemporary Issues in Buddhism
Is Western Buddhism Unique?
SEMINARS

Week 7  Why was the Buddha an “extraordinary man”? Does he occupy a position similar to that of God in a theistic religion? 
Reading: Harris, E. “The Buddha: teacher of Gods and humans.” In What Buddhists Believe, 8-34.

Week 8  Is it necessary to contemplate on suffering to lead a happy life? 
Reading: Prebish & Keown. Introducing Buddhism, 43-59.

Week 9  Should a Buddhist save or let go? 
Reading: Ratanakul, P. “To save or let go: Thai Buddhist perspective on euthanasia.” In Contemporary Buddhist Ethics, 169-82.

Week 10 What does it mean to live as a practising Buddhist? 
Reading: Mackenzie, V. Cave in the Snow, 8-31.

ESSAYS TOPICS

1. Buddhism is both a view of life and a way of life? Discuss. 
Wlapola, 1959. What the Buddha Taught, chapters 1 and 8. 

2. Why does the Mahayana tradition claim to be the “Great Vehicle” in comparison to the “Little” Theravada tradition? 
3. How does a materialist view of humanity conflict with the Buddhist conception of life, death, and afterlife?
Harvey, P. 2000. An Introduction to Buddhist Ethics, 286-310.
Ratanakul, P. 2000. “To save or let go: Thai Buddhist perspective on euthanasia.” In Contemporary Buddhist Ethics, 137-68.

4. What is the appeal of Buddhism today? Can we still refer to it as “Buddhism” that has changed its form and practice in its adopted countries?

GENERAL READING
Harvey, Peter, 2013 (2nd ed.) An Introduction to Buddhism. Cambridge: CUP.

**FURTHER READING**

THE COURSE IN DETAIL

LENT TERM

CHRISTIANITY – DR ANDERSON JEREMIAH

LECTURES

Week 1 Christianity in Context
   Historical development, traditions and denominations

Week 2 Varieties of Christian Belief
   Unity and Diversity in Christian Beliefs

Week 3 Christian Practice of Life
   Liturgy, Worship and Pilgrimages

Week 4 Contemporary Issues in Christianity
   Christian ‘Discipleship’ in the Global Context

SEMINARS

Week 1 What are the defining characteristics of Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Pentecostal types of Christianity?
   Why do you think the Christian religion is made up of so many different traditions, denominations and movements?
   Reading:

Week 2 Why have the gospels been so important to Christian faith?
   Why have belief in the incarnation, the cross and the
resurrection become such central components of Christian faith?

Reading:

Week 3  Identify the principal Christian practice emerging from the main components of Christian belief as presented in the four gospels?
In what ways Christian belief finds expression in material form?
Reading:

Week 4  With reference to different regions of the world, what are the most important issues which the global spread of Christianity has raised/is raising?
What are the main challenges of the Church in the 21st century?
Reading:

ESSAY TOPICS

1. Identify and Discuss THREE defining characteristics of modern Christianity.

2. What do Christians mean by claiming that ‘God has done something special for the world in Jesus Christ’?


3. How do Christians translate their beliefs into everyday practices? What is the importance of Christian pilgrimages as an expression of Worship?
Stringer, Martin D. *On the perception of worship: the ethnography of worship in four Christian congregations in Manchester*. Birmingham: University Press, 1999

4. Do you think that Christianity can still be relevant in the 21st century and communicate its message faithfully? if so, how? If not why not?

Useful Introductory Sources

Companions, Dictionaries & Encyclopaedia:


THE COURSE IN DETAIL

LENT TERM

ISLAM – DR SHURUQ NAGUIB

LECTURES

Week 5  Islam in context:
Arabia, Muhammad and the Qur’anic Revelation

Week 6  Varieties of belief:
Diversity in unity

Week 7  Essay Preparation Week

Week 8  Ethics and Practice
Law, ritual and religious knowledge

Week 9  Contemporary Issues in Islam
Gender and Islam: the debate on women’s rights

SEMINARS

Week 5:  How does “sacred history” define doctrine in Islam?
Week 6: Explore the theme of unity and diversity in Islam. Outline what might be thought of as a unifying framework, give examples of diversity, and suggest some possible underlying reasons for the variations.
Reading: B. Tibi, 'What is Islam? Islam in the Past and Present'.

Week 8: What is the significance of law for the definition of right and wrong practice in Islam?
Reading: A. Kevin Reinhart, “Islamic Law as Islamic Ethics”

Week 9: 1. To what extent, if any, have the modern debates on gender equality contributed to placing the woman question at the centre of Islamic identity? 2. Could Islam provide a framework for gender equality?
Reading: Miriam Cooke, “Multiple Critique: Islamic Feminist Rhetorical Strategies”.

ESSAY TOPICS

1. In what respects do you think Islam belongs to the same family of religions as Christianity and/or Judaism?

2. Is Sufism a different form of the tradition like Sunni and Shi’i Islam?


3. Does Islamic law encompass Islamic ethics?


Queen’s University Press.
Rahman, Fazlur. (1983) “Some key ethical concepts of the Qur’an”, *Journal of

4. **Are women equal to men in Islam?**
Publishers.
Gainsville: The University of Florida Press.
York: Perseus.
Routledge.
Stowasser, Barbara Freyer. (1994) *Women in the Quran: Traditions and
Interpretations*. Oxford: OUP.

**FURTHER READING**
Brown, Daniel. (2009) *A New Introduction to Islam*. Chichester: Wiley-
THE COURSE IN DETAIL

LENT & SUMMER TERMS

RELIGION IN THE MODERN WORLD – Professor Linda Woodhead

NB: Primary readings to support this part of the course are available in:

LECTURES

LENT TERM

Week 10  Secularization 1
Is Britain still a Christian Country?
Followed by:
Effective Examination Preparation

SUMMER TERM

Week 1  Secularization 2
The rise of “No-religion” and atheism

Week 2  Types of religion in the modern world
Fundamentalism, liberalism and spirituality

Week 3  Religion, Politics and Violence
The contemporary interfaces of religion, politics and power.

Week 4  Religion, Gender and Sexuality
Religion, gender and sex
LENT TERM

Week 10

Is Britain still a Christian Country? How would you answer this question – what evidence would you use? Do you think Britain has “secularized” and if so why?

Readings:

SUMMER TERM

Week 1

What does it mean when people say they have “no religion”? Why has the number saying this been rising in the West but not so much elsewhere in the world?
Linda Woodhead, Why No Religion is the New Religion

Week 2

Thinking about their relationship with (late-)modernity, compare and contrast the typologies of ‘religions of difference’, ‘religions of humanity’ and ‘spiritualities of life’. Which do you think appeal most in contemporary British society and why? Which might appeal in other societies?

Week 3

What are some of the main ways in which religion and politics interact. Is violence always inevitable when religion mixes with politics?

Week 4 In what ways do different kinds of religion mediate gender dynamics? Is religion unavoidably ‘patriarchal’, ‘homophobic’ and suspicious of sex?


FURTHER READING


(Please note: there is no essay to complete for this section)