R.ST100 AT A GLANCE

People:
Course Convenors:
Michaelmas 2016: Dr Shuruq Naguib (5)92426, B.67, County South
Lent and Summer 2017: Dr Anderson Jeremiah (5)92415, B.69, County South

Part I Co-ordinators: Gillian Taylor (5)92425, B.43, County South
& Katherine Young (5)92710, 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 (Christianity) Thursday 24th November 2016
Essay Two (Buddhism) Thursday 26th January 2017
Essay Three (Hinduism) Thursday 2nd March 2017
Essay Four (Islam) Thursday 4th May 2017
You must always submit your essays by 12 noon.

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:

The Moodle page for R.St100 is:
https://modules.lancaster.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=16230
R.ST100 RELIGIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD

GENERAL INFORMATION

Religious Studies is located in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, B.Floor, County South. The Part I Co-ordinators, Gillian and Katherine, look after R.St100. 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 (Michaelmas 2016 ONLY) and Dr Anderson Jeremiah (Lent & Summer 2017). Any serious problems relating to the course must be communicated to the relevant convenor.

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 Katherine or Gillian.

The Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr Brian Garvey (Michaelmas 2016 ONLY) and Dr Cain Todd (Lent and Summer 2017) oversee 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 (Michaelmas 2016 ONLY)
Email: b.garvey@lancaster.ac.uk
Dr Cain Todd (5)92305 (Lent & Summer 2017)
Email: c.todd@lancaster.ac.uk

Course Convenor
Dr Shuruq Naguib (5)92426 (Michaelmas 2016 ONLY)
Email: shuruqnaguib@lancaster.ac.uk
Dr Anderson Jeremiah (5)92415 (Lent & Summer 2017)
Email: a.jeremiah@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 23 and Week 24 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:
Examination 50%
Essay 1   12.5 %
Essay 2   12.5 %
Essay 3   12.5 %
Essay 4   12.5 %
Examinations
Examinations take place in the middle of the Summer term. The paper for R.St100 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, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay One (Christianity)</td>
<td>Week 7, Michaelmas Term (Thursday 24 November 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Two (Buddhism)</td>
<td>Week 12, Lent Term (Thursday 26 January 2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Three (Hinduism)</td>
<td>Week 17, Lent Term (Thursday 2 March 2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Four (Islam)</td>
<td>Week 22, Summer Term (Thursday 4 May 2017)</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 2nd, 3rd and 4th 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.

Course Website on Moodle
Course bibliographies, lecture handouts, and other materials will be posted here. You will also submit your essays here. This site will also be used by the Student Representatives, and you will be able to contact the Representatives through the site.

The Moodle page for R.St100 is:
https://modules.lancaster.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=16230
SYLLABUS

MICHAELMAS TERM LECTURES
INTRODUCTION – PROFESSOR LINDA WOODHEAD
Week 1 Introducing Religion

CHRISTIANITY – PROFESSOR LINDA WOODHEAD
Week 2 Christianity in Context
Week 3 Varieties of Belief
Week 4 Ethics and Practice
Week 5 Contemporary Issues in Christianity
Week 6 Essay Preparation Week (No Lecture)

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

LENT TERM LECTURES
HINDUISM – DR BRIAN BLACK
Week 11 Hinduism in Context
Week 12 Varieties of Belief
Week 13 Ethics and Practice
Week 14 Contemporary Issues in Hinduism

ISLAM – DR SHURUQ NAGUIB
Week 15 Islam in Context
Week 16 Varieties of Belief
Week 17 Essay Preparation Week (No Lecture)
Week 18 Ethics and Practice
Week 19 Contemporary Issues in Islam

RELIGION IN THE MODERN WORLD – PROFESSOR KIM KNOTT
Week 20 Secularization 1: Is Britain still a Christian Country?

SUMMER TERM
Week 21 Secularization 2: The rise of “No-religion” and atheism
Week 22 Religion and Violence
Week 23 Conflict, Controversy and Values
Week 24 Religion, Gender and Sexuality
THE COURSE IN DETAIL
MICHAELMAS TERM
INTRODUCTION – PROFESSOR LINDA WOODHEAD

LECTURE
Week 1  Introducing Religion in the Modern World
What is ‘religion’? What do we mean by ‘modern’?

SEMINAR
Week 2  What are some of problems with the term ‘religion’? What are some of the specific issues concerning religion in the ‘modern’ world?

CHRISTIANITY – PROFESSOR LINDA WOODHEAD

LECTURES
Week 2  Christianity in Context
History (global and local); official and lived religion; ways of studying Christianity
Week 3  Varieties of Christian Belief
Unity and Diversity in Christian Beliefs
Week 4  Ethics and Practice
Ethics, rituals, practices
Week 5  Contemporary Issues in Christianity
Christianity today: trends and issues
Week 6  No Lecture (Essay Preparation Week)

SEMINARS
Week 3  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?

Week 4  Why is Jesus so central? What does belief in his incarnation, cross and resurrection involve?
Week 5  What does it mean to be a Christian in practice
Reading: Woodhead, Linda. Christianity: A Very Short
Chapter 2: Beliefs, rituals and narratives, pp. 21-37.

Week 6  Why is Christianity declining in some parts of the world and
growing in others?
Reading: Woodhead, Linda. Christianity: A Very Short
Chapter 6: Christianity in the modern world, pp. 89-111.

ESSAY TOPICS
1. Identify and Discuss THREE defining characteristics of modern
Christianity.
Bednarowski M. F. ed. Twentieth Century Global Christianity. Minneapolis:
2006.
Miscellaneous Christianity, in C. Partridge ed. The New Lion Handbook of The
Porterfield A. ed. Modern Christianity to 1900. Minneapolis: Fortress Press,
2007.
Smith A. Christianity, in S. Markham & T. Ruparell eds. Encountering
Synan, Vinson. The Century of the Holy Spirit: 100 years of Pentecostal and
Woodhead L. Christianity, in L. Woodhead et al. Religions in the Modern
— An Introduction to Christianity. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
2004.
2014.

2. What do Christians mean by claiming that ‘God has done
something special for the world in Jesus Christ’?
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997. (looking up: Jesus,
Incarnation, Salvation etc)
etc)


3. **How do Christians translate their beliefs into everyday practices?**


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:**


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  No seminar
Week 8  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 9  Is it necessary to contemplate on suffering to lead a happy
       life?
Week 10 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 11 What does it mean to live as a practising Buddhist?
       (Lent) 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.

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?**


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

FURTHER READING
Harvey, Peter, 2000. *An Introduction to Buddhist Ethics*. Cambridge: CUP.
LENT TERM

HINDUISM – DR BRIAN BLACK

LECTURES

Week 11 Hinduism in Context
Multiple contexts of Hinduism: Ritual, Theology, and Devotion

Week 12 Varied Belief
The Mahabharata and religious pluralism in Hindu traditions

Week 13 Ethics and Practice
The Mahabharata: Dharma, Caste, and Gender

Week 14 Contemporary Issues in Hinduism
Hinduism and Modernity

SEMINARS

Week 12 What are some of the main themes and ideas in the Vedas and Upanishads? How are they related to Hinduism in other contexts?
Reading: The Purushasukta (10.90), the Nasadiya (10.129), Vac, the goddess of speech (10.125) in The Rig Veda An Anthology: One Hundred and Eight Hymns (translated by Wendy Doniger O’Flaherty); Brhadāranyaka Upaniṣad (Book 4); Chāndogya Upaniṣad (Book 6) (translated by Valerie Roebuck); ‘Exorcising the Transcendent: Strategies for Defining Hinduism and Religion’, by Brian Smith (1987)

Week 13 What are some of the main moral dilemmas of the Mahābhārata? What are some of the main religious teachings in the Mahābhārata? How are the dilemmas and teachings related to each other?
Reading: The Mahābhārata (translated by Smith: pages 28-73 (121-63)

Week 14 Discuss dharma, caste and gender in the Mahābhārata. How do dharma, caste and gender relate to one another?
Reading: the Sulabhā/Janaka debate, translated by Fitzgerald, 2002 (‘Nun Befuddles King, Shows Karmayoga Does Not Work: Sulabha’s Refutation of King Janaka at MBh 12.308’. Journal of Indian Philosophy 30.6: 641-77); the Viśvāmitra/Caṇḍāla debate (Mbh 12.139-140, translated by Fitzgerald)

Week 15 How does Vivekananda present Hinduism in relation to science, modernity, and other religions in his address to the World Parliament of Religions?
Reading: Swami Vivekananda’s Speech at the World Parliament of Religion, Chicago, 1893
ESSAYS

1. Critically evaluate Brian Smith’s claim that the Vedas are integral to defining Hinduism.

2. To what extent is the Mahābhārata an example of religious pluralism?


3. EITHER: Are men and women equal in Hinduism? Discuss in relation to one or more of the following female characters: Draupadī, Shakuntalā, Sāvitrī, Gandharī, Kuntī, Ambā, Sulabhā. OR: Using examples from the *Mahābhārata*, discuss the relationship between dharma and caste.


4. **Critically evaluate the claim that Vivekananda is the shaper of modern Hinduism.**


FURTHER READING

_The Bhagavad Gita, In Our Time_ http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00zt235


Hinduism: Ideas of Creation, _In Our Time_ http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03k289f (podcast)


The Upanishads, In Our Time http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01nq7ct (podcast)

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ISLAM – DR SHURUQ NAGUIB
LECTURES

Week 15  Islam in context:
Arabia, Muhammad and the Qur’anic Revelation

Week 16  Varieties of belief:
Diversity in unity

Week 17  Essay Preparation Week (No Lecture)

Week 18  Ethics and Practice
Law, ritual and religious knowledge

Week 19  Contemporary Issues in Islam
Gender and Islam: the debate on women’s rights

SEMINARS

Week 16  How does “sacred history” define doctrine in Islam?
Week 17  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.

Week 18  No Seminar
Week 19  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 20
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?

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?**


4. **Are women equal to men in Islam?**

FURTHER READING
Kenneth Cragg, *The Event of the Qur’an*.

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23
LENT & SUMMER TERMS

RELIGION IN THE MODERN WORLD – PROFESSOR KIM KNOTT

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

LECTURES
LENT TERM
Week 20 Secularization 1: Is Britain still a Christian Country?
Followed by: Effective Examination Preparation

SUMMER TERM
Week 21 Secularization 2: The rise of ‘No religion’ and Atheism
Week 22 Religion and Violence
Week 23 Conflict, Controversy and Values
Week 24 Religion, Gender and Sexuality

SEMINARS
SUMMER TERM
Week 21 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:
Listen to the podcast and the debate:
Samir Raheem and others. 2016. ‘Who cares if Britain isn’t a Christian country?’, Prospect Magazine article and debate sponsored by the British Academy, 15 February 2016. Click on link at the bottom of the article to access the debate.
http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/britishacademy/who-cares-if-britain-isnt-a-christian-country
Week 22  Non-religion,’ ‘no religion’ and atheism: Are they the same or different. Why is there more non-religion today than in the past?
Readings:

Week 23  What is the relationship between religion and violence? In your view, is religion the cause or just a pre-text for violence? What is your evidence?
Reading:
And watch the debate:

Week 24  What do contemporary conflicts and controversies tell us about (a) norms and values of state and society, and (b) the place of religion in state and society? [Think about this in general, but then focus on a single controversy of your choice. Do some online research to find out more]

Week 25  Gender and gender equality remain central issues for the contemporary religions. Why is it important for scholars of religion to focus on gender? What does it mean to study religion through a ‘gender lens’?
Reading:
And watch the debate:
FURTHER READING


Please note: there is no essay to complete for this section. There is a compulsory question on this section in the Summer Exam.