

# World religions

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## Academic credits

3 KP (4,5 ECTS)

## Prerequisites

None

## Approved by

Methodological commission (7.02.2022)

## Course author and Lecturer

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## Content (Course Annotation)

The course presents students with the most important religious and philosophical ideas and orthodox features of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Chinese folk religion, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, Judaism and Islam, paying particular attention to the worldviews of the Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Persian, Jewish and Arab world their understanding of time and anthropological categories.

## Aims

The aim of the course is to promote students' understanding of classical religions and their properties in order to facilitate their communication during studies, in the workplace or at home, facing today's multi-religious context, both in the world and in Latvia.

## Learning Outcomes

### **Knowledge**

*The students will know:*

- Main tenets and values of the religions of South Asia, East Asia and the Middle East. Mid-term test Examination
- the most important categories of traditional religious and philosophical discourse, ranging from history to nowadays

### **Skills**

*The students will be able to:*

- adequately analyse the special literature on religions. Mid-term test Examination
- focus on modern religious eclectics and the nature of multi-religious affiliation.

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### *Competencies*

*The students will be able to:*

- build adequate communication in the workplace, taking into account the multireligious environment in today's Europe and Latvia. Mid-term test  
Examination

### Assessment

No.	Knowledge	Study results Skills	Competence	% of the final score
1. Mid-term test	+	+	+	50
2. Examination	+	+	+	50
<i>TOTAL</i>				<i>100</i>

## **FULL-TIME STUDIES**

### Lesson plan

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Academic hours (45 min)</i>
1. Subject. Indian religions.	
1. Lecture. Introduction. The concept of religion. Introduction to Indian religions: the Indian world-view.	3
2. Lecture. The civilization of the Indus River Valley. Vedas. Upanishads.	3
3. Lecture. Classical Hinduism: ideas, religious practices. Tantric Hinduism.	3
4. Buddhism. The teaching of Buddha Shakyamuni.	3
5. Lecture. Theravāda and Mahāyāna. Tantric Buddhism.	3
2. Subject. East Asian religions	
1. Mid-term test. Lecture. China's background. The Chinese world-view.	3
2. Basic categories of Confucianism.	3
3. Lecture. The history and properties of Taoism.	3
4. Lecture. Chinese folk religion.	3
5. Lecture. Shinto: Ideas and Religious Practice.	3

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### 3. Subject. The religions of the Middle East.

1. Lecture. The properties of Middle East religions. Zoroastrianism.	3
2. Lecture. Judaism from 70 CE to the present.	3
3. Lecture. Judaism traditions and religious practices.	3
4. Lecture. History of Islam.	3
5. Islamic ideas and religious practices. Sharia. The traditions of Islam.	3
Examination	3
<i>TOTAL</i>	48

## Individual studies

No.	Individual studies	Number of hours to run
1.	Working with lecture materials	32
2.	Working with Literature	40
<i>TOTAL</i>		72

## Readings

### *Mandatory Readings*

- Eliade, Mircea, ed. *The Encyclopaedia of Religion* (in 16 volumes). New York: Macmillan Publ., 1987.
- Hatšteins, Markuss. *Pasaules reliģijas*. Rīga: Jāņa Rozes apgāds, 2008.
- Klīve, V.V. *Ticības ceļos: Reliģiju vēsture: eksperimentāls mācību līdzeklis*. Rīga: Zinātne, 1995.

### *Additional Readings*

- Cooper, Jean C. *An Illustrated Introduction to Taoism*. World Wisdom, 2010.
- *Ebreju tautas vēsture*. Nordik, 2007.
- Ivbulis, Viktors. *Šīva izdejo un sagrauj pasauli: ievads tradicionālajā Hindu domā*. Rīga: Zinātne, 2003.
- Lee, Dian Rainey. *Confucious & Confucianism: The Essentials*. UK: Willey-Blackwell, 2010.
- Taivans, Leons. *Tuvo Austrumu civilizācija: arābi, islāms, halīfāts*. Rīga: RaKa, 2014.
- Telushkin, Rabbi Joseph. *Jewish Literacy*. Revised Ed: *The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People, and Its History*. Revised edn. New York: Harper Collins Books, 2008.
- Vilkinsons, Filips. *Budisms: enciklopēdija*. Tulk. Andžela Šuvajeva. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2004.
- Alī, Monika. *Briķleina*. Rīga: Atēna, 2004.
- Keiners, Erguns Mehmeds un Emīrs Fetī Keiners. *Aiz islāma plīvura*. Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2020.
- Sengstere, Telma. *Pārrautais priekšgars: stāsts par Gulšanu Esteri*. Rīga: Agape, 2006.

### *Internet sources*

- Asian Culture and History  
(<http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ach/issue/archives>)
- Electronic Journal of Vedic Studies (<https://crossasia-journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/ejvs/>)
- Journal of Global Buddhism  
(<http://www.globalbuddhism.org/jgb/index.php/jgb/issue/archive>)
- Japanese Journal of Religious Studies
- Jewish Studies, an Internet Journal
- Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion (EBSCO)
- Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies
- History of Religion <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/hr/current>.
- Asian Culture and History <https://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ach>
- Reliģiski-Filozofiski Raksti <https://dspace.lu.lv/dspace/handle/7/31603>
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