

PCR: 44(A)

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & COMPARATIVE RELIGION
VISVA-BHARATI
SANTINIKETAN

SYLLABUS FOR B.A. (HONS.) PROGRAMME / CURRICULUM IN COMPARATIVE RELIGION
(2017)

SCHEME FOR CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM

Each course has 50 marks including internal assessment of 10 marks. Credit: As stipulated by the University Administration

Semester	Core Course (14) Each Course involves 6 Credits	Ability / Skill Enhancement Course (4) Each Course involves 2 Credits	Discipline Specific Elective DSE (4) Each Course involves 6 Credits	Generic Elective GE (4) Each Course involves 6 Credits
SEM-I	C-01: Hinduism: Origin and Development C-02: Islam: Origin and Development	Compulsory Course		GE-01: Philosophy of Religion – I
SEM-II	C-03: Sikhism: Origin and Development C-04: Jainism: Origin and Development	Compulsory Course		GE-02: Philosophy of Religion – II
SEM-III	C-05: Buddhism: Origin and Development C-06: Christianity: Origin and Development C-07: Significant Religious Themes – I	SEC-03: Methodology and Data Collection for the Study of Religion		GE-03: Tribal religions – Religion of Santals
SEM-IV	C-08: Hinduism – Textual Study C-09: Islam – Textual Study C-10: Significant Religious Themes – II	SEC-04: Field Study and Dissertation		GE-04: Folk Religious Traditions of Bengal
SEM-V	C-11: Jainism – Textual Study C-12: Sikhism – Textual Study		DSE-01 & 02 Taoism – Textual Study Judaism – Textual Study Special Text (Indian) Critique of Religion – I	
SEM-VI	C-13: Buddhism – Textual Study C-14: Christianity – Textual Study		DSE-03 & 04 Confucianism – Textual Study Zoroastrianism – Textual Study Special Text (Western) Critique of Religion – II	

SEMESTER-I**C-01: HINDUISM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT**

1. Indus Valley Period: Traces of elements of Hinduism
2. Vedic Period: Oral and Written tradition of Vedas – Rituals – Sacrifices – Gods of Vedas – Upanisads – Atheism
3. Epic and Puranic Period: Composition of the Mahabharata and Ramayana and major Puranas- Dharma Sastras - Vaishnavism, Saivism, Saktism- yoga literature
4. The Medieval Period: Bhakti –development of religious cults –devotional literature- Tantric literature
5. The Modern Period: Renaissance Hinduism – Hinduism as a world religion

Text:

1. Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism*, Cambridge University Press, 2004 (Selections)

Suggested Readings:

1. Trevor Ling, *A History of Religion – East and West*, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
2. E.O. James, *History of Religions*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
3. John B. Noss, *Man's Religions*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
4. David N. Lorenzen, *Who Invented Hinduism? – Essays on Religion in History*, Yoda Press, New Delhi, 2008.

C-02: ISLAM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Origin of Islam: Social-Political Circumstances of Arabia during 7th Century C.E. – The Life of Prophet Mohammed – Caliphates
2. Medieval Period: Spread of Islam – Sufism – Islam in India
3. Modern Period: Islam in the Modern World – Modern Religious Movements (India and Abroad) – Partition – Problems associated with Religious Majority and Minorities in Indian Context

Suggested Readings:

1. Trevor Ling, *A History of Religion – East and West*, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
2. E.O. James, *History of Religions*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
3. John B. Noss, *Man's Religions*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
4. *The Cambridge History of Islam*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
5. Masudul Hassan, *History of Islam*, Vols. I & II, Kitab Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. K. Ali, *A Study of Islamic History*, Adam Pub & Dist., New Delhi.
7. Md. Sirajul Islam, *Sufism and Bhakti – A Comparative Study*, CRVP, Washington, 2004.
8. M. Mujeeb, *Islam in India*, Kitab Bhawan, New Delhi.

GE-01: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION – I

1. Proofs for the Existence of God
2. Proofs against the Existence of God
3. Problem of Evil

Text:

1. Hick, John. *Philosophy of Religion*, Chapters 2, 3 and 4.
2. Bhattacharya, Gopika Mohan, *Studies in Nyaya Vaisesika Theism*, Sanskrit College, Kolkata, 1961. (Selections).

SEMESTER-II**C-03: SIKHISM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT**

1. Socio-Politico-Religious Background of Punjab during 15th Century – Impact of Bhakti Movement and Sufism
2. Ten Gurus: Their Lives and Contributions – The Living Guru – Khalsa
3. Banda Singh Bahadur – Maharaja Ranjit Singh
4. Nirankari, Namdhari, Singh Sabha Movements – Siromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee – Akali Movement – Sikh Nationalism – Dera Panths

Suggested Readings:

1. Trevor Ling, *A History of Religion – East and West*, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.

2. E.O. James, *History of Religions*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
3. John B. Noss, *Man's Religions*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
4. Kushwant Singh, *A History of the Sikhs, (I & II Vols.)*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

C-04: JAINISM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Rise of Jainism: Socio-Political Situations
2. Early Jainism: Thirthankaras – Parsvanatha – Mahavira and His Life and Teachings
3. Svetambara and Digambara Sects
4. Archaeology and Jain Art – Cave Beds – Monuments
5. Jains in Modern context

Suggested Readings:

1. Trevor Ling, *A History of Religion – East and West*, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
2. E.O. James, *History of Religions*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
3. John B. Noss, *Man's Religions*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
4. Sinclair Stevenson, *The Heart of Jainism*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1970.

GE-02: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION – II

1. Religious experience
2. Religious language and meaning
3. Conflicting Truth Claims of Different Religions

Texts:

1. James, William. *Varieties of Religious Experience*, Pp. 485-501, 512-15.
2. Hick, John. *Philosophy of Religion*, chapters 7 and 9.

Suggested Readings:

1. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, book1.Q12 articles 1-12
2. Smith, Wilfred Cantwell. *The Faith of Other Men*
3. Tillich, Paul. *The Dynamics of Faith*, Pp.41-54.
4. Murty, K. Sachidananda, *Revelation and Truth (Selections)*.
5. Brain Davis, *Philosophy of Religion*, Oxford University Press, New York.

SEMESTER-III

C-05: BUDDHISM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Rise of Buddhism: Socio Political Situations: Tribal Republics, Kshatriya Clans – Buddha – Life and Teachings
2. Early Buddhism: Impact of Asoka – Buddhist Councils – Development of Doctrines – Development and Division of Monastic Traditions – Elaboration of Hinayana Tradition
3. Mahayana and Vajrayana Traditions – Buddhist Impact on Popular life
4. Neo-Buddhism and Ambedkar Movement – Buddhism and the Minorities in Sri Lanka and Myanmar

Suggested Readings:

1. Trevor Ling, *A History of Religion – East and West*, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
2. E.O. James, *History of Religions*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
3. John B. Noss, *Man's Religions*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
4. T.W. Rhys Davids, *Buddhism – Being a Sketch of the Life and Teachings of Gautama, The Buddha*, Low Price Publications, Delhi, 2010.
5. Pande, G.C. *Studies In the Origin of Buddhism*, Delhi, 1967.
6. Humphreys, C. *Buddhism*, London, 1974.

C-06: CHRISTIANITY: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Origin of Christianity: Socio-Political Circumstances during the time of Jesus – The life of Jesus – Early Christians
2. Romans and Christianity: Constantine and Christianity – Development of Christian Literature – Catholicism – Beginning and Growth of Christian Monasticism – Crusades
3. Modern Period: Renaissance and Christianity – Enlightenment and Christianity – Martin Luther and Protestantism – Colonialism and Christian Evangelism – Liberation Theology
4. Christianity and India: St. Thomas – Syrian Catholics – Caste and Conversion – Dalit Theology

Suggested Readings:

1. Trevor Ling, *A History of Religion – East and West*, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
2. E.O. James, *History of Religions*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
3. John B. Noss, *Man's Religions*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
4. *The Cambridge History of Christianity, Vol. 1–9*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

C-07: SIGNIFICANT RELIGIOUS THEMES – I

1. Concept of God and Divine
 - a. Introduction to Concept of God: Gnosticism – Agnosticism – Naturalism – Polytheism – Monotheism – Pantheism – Panentheism – Atheism
 - b. Folk Religious Beliefs: Male Gods – Goddess Worship – Fertility Principle
 - c. Concept of God in different religions and systems of thought
2. Concept of Soul and Human
 - a. Concepts of Soul in Tribal (Primitive) Religions: Theoretical Elaborations: Animism, Totemism, *Mana*
 - b. Varieties of the Origin and Destiny of Soul – Internal Soul: Breath, Saliva, Blood, Vital Organs of the Body, Sexual Potentials – External Souls: Shadow, 'Double' – Powers of Soul
 - c. Concept of soul and human in different religions and systems of thought
3. Salvation and/or Liberation
 - a. Liberation as Individual and Social
 - b. Salvation and/or Liberation in different religions and systems of thought – Idea of Grace

Texts

1. (Ed.) Mircea Eliade, *Encyclopedia of Religion, Vol. 1 – 14*, (Selected Articles), Macmillan Publishing Company, New York.
2. (Ed.) James Hastings, *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, Vol. I – XII*, (Selected Articles), T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, 1974.

SEC-03: METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

1. Sampling
2. Methods of Collection of Data
3. Tools for Collection of Data
4. Field Work
5. Processing Data

Texts:

1. C. R. Kothari, *Research Methodology – Methods and Techniques*, New Age Publications, 2014.
2. O. R. Krishnaswami, *Methodology of Research in Social Sciences*, Himalaya Publishing House, Mumbai, 2001.

GE-03: TRIBAL RELIGIONS – RELIGION OF SANTALS

1. Structure of the Santal society
2. Supernatural spirits and power
3. Seasonal rites and festivals
4. Life-cycle rites
5. Magic and Witchcraft

Text:

1. J. Troisi, *Tribal Religion: Religious Beliefs and Practices among the Santals*, Manohar, 2000.

SEMESTER-IV**C-08: HINDUISM – TEXTUAL STUDY**

1. Katha Upanishad (Selections)
2. The Bhagavad Gita, Chapter: 2 – Samkhya yoga
3. Diana L. Eck, *Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey From Bozeman to Benaras*, Penguin books, 1995. (Ch-3: The many names of God: The Habit of Oneness and the challenge of many, Darshana: Point of view, The naming of God, Mahatmya: the greatness of each God, Trimurti: the many forms of each God, Ishtadevata: the chosen God)

Suggested Readings:

1. Mittal, Sushil & Gene Gene Thursby. "On Hinduism and Hinduisms: The Way of the Banyan" in *Hindu World*, Routledge
2. Hopkins, Thomas. *The Hindu Religious Tradition*.
3. Kinsley, David. *Hindu goddesses: Vision of the Divine Female in the Hindu Religious Tradition*.
4. Narayanan, Vasudha. "The Hindu Tradition" in Oxtoby, *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*.
5. Radhakrishnan, Sarvapalli (Tr.). *The Principal Upanishads*.
6. Sivaraman, Krishnan. *Hindu Spirituality: Vedas through Vedanta*.
7. Clayton, A.C. *The Rig Veda and the Vedic Religion*, 2nd Edition.
8. Leslie, Julia. *Roles and Rituals for Hindu Women*
9. David N. Lorenzen, *Who Invented Hinduism? – Essays on Religion in History*, Yoda Press, New Delhi, 2008.

C-09: ISLAM – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. The Holy Quran: 1: 1-7; 59: 22-24; 112: 1-4; 17: 23-40; 31:13-30
2. The Hadith: From Nisar Ahmed: The Fundamental Teaching of Quran and Hadith, part-1: Pp.80-83, 90-92, 95-98, 100-102, 104-107
3. Masadul Hasan: History of Islam, Vol. 1 (Life of Prophet Mohammad: Meccan period), Pp. 46-62

Suggested Readings:

1. Ayoub, Mahmoud. *The Quran and its Interpreters*. Albany: SUNY Press, c1984.
2. (The) Holy Quran (trans. By A. J. Arberry).
3. Smith, Wilfred Cantwell. *Modern Islam in India: A Social Analysis*.
4. Yusuf Ali (Tr.), *The Holy Quran*, Mecca.

C-10: SIGNIFICANT RELIGIOUS THEMES – II

1. Concept of World
 - a. Status of World and its Objects in Tribal (Primitive) and Folk Religious Beliefs
 - b. Status of World and its Beings in different religions and systems of thought
2. Incarnation and Avatara
 - a. Concept of Incarnation or Avatara in Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Saivism, Vaishnavism, Puranic Traditions
3. Miracles and Supranormal Powers
 - a. Distinction between Magic and Miracle
 - b. Notion of Miracle in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hindu Puranic Traditions and Popular Beliefs
4. Role of Intermediaries in Religions
 - a. Role of Intermediaries in Tribal (Primitive) Religious Beliefs: Shamans, Magicians
 - b. Role of Intermediaries in Folk Religious Beliefs: Priests and People Possessed of Deities, Cultic Figures
 - c. Role of Intermediaries in Religions: Judaism: Rabbi – Christianity: Pope, Saints and Priests – Buddhism: Bhikkus and Bhikkunis – Vedic and Vedantic Traditions: Acharya – Bhakti tradition: Guru and Sants – Sikhism: Guru

Texts

1. (Ed.) Mircea Eliade, *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Vol. 1 – 14, (Selected Articles), Macmillan Publishing Company, New York.
2. (Ed.) James Hastings, *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, Vol. I – XII, (Selected Articles), T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, 1974.

SEC-04: FIELD STUDY AND DISSERTATION

Paper consists of 50 marks having 40 marks for external examiner for examining the written submission and viva-voce (30+10) and 10 marks for the internal examiner. The submission should not exceed 50 pages.

GE-04: FOLK RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF BENGAL

1. Bengali Brata Rituals
2. The Bauls of Bengal
3. Possession culture in Adivasi and Folk traditions

Texts:

1. June McDaniel. *Making Virtuous Daughter's and Wives: An Introduction to Women's Brata Rituals in Bengali Folk Religion* (selections).
2. R.M. Sarkar, *Bauls of Bengal* (selections)
3. June McDaniel, *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls*, OUP (selections)

Suggested Readings:

1. Upendranath Bhattacharya, *Banglar Baul O Baul Gaan*
2. Sudhir Chakraborty, *Baul Fakir Katha*
3. Shaktinath Jha, *Bastubadi Baul*

SEMESTER-V

C-11: JAINISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. The Heart of Jainism: Sinclair Stevenson (selections)
2. Tattvartha Sutra: Umasvati (Pp. 91-147)
3. Collected Papers on Jain Studies: Padmanabh S. Jain (Pp.3-19 & 199-215)

Suggested Readings:

1. Dundas, Paul, *The Jains*.
2. Jain, Sagarmal, *Jain Spirituality*
3. Jaini, Padmanabh S, *The Jaina Path of Purification*
4. -----*Collected papers on Jain Studies*
5. Narayanan, Vasudha, "The Jain Tradition", in Oxtoby, *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*.
6. O'Connell, Joseph T. (ed.), *Jain Doctrine and Practice: Academic Perspectives*.
7. Umasvati, *That Which Is: Tattvarthasutras*.
8. Wagle, N.K. and Olle Qvarnstrom (Eds.), *Approaches to Jain Studies: Philosophy, Logic, Rituals and Symbols*.

C-12: SIKHISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. Moolmantra and Japuji from Guru Granth Sahib
2. Ravidas' Begampura from Guru Granth Sahib
3. Daljeet Singh – *The Sikh Ideology*

Texts:

1. Manmohan Singh (Tr.), *Sri Guru Granth Sahib*, (Vol. I and II), Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar, 2006
2. Daljeet Singh, *The Sikh Ideology*, Guru Nanak Foundation, New Delhi, 1984.

Suggested Readings:

1. Daljeet Singh and Kharak Singh, *Sikhism – Its Philosophy and History*, Institute of Sikh Studies, Chandigarh, 2008.
2. N. Muthu Mohan (Ed.), *South Indian Studies in Sikhism*, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 2004.

DSE-03 & 04

TAOISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. Origin-Belief-Practices-Holy Texts-Sacred Places
2. Dao De Jing

Suggested Readings:

1. *Sources of Chinese Tradition* compiled by Theodore De Barry,
2. Ling-Tsit Cham, Burton Watson, Ch. 4 (Taoism)
3. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore, *Understanding Taoism*, Duncan Baird Publishers, London, 2003

JUDAISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. The Torah: Genesis: Ch 1 & 2 (Creation and Fall); Exodus: Ch 3 & 14 (Exodus and Exodus Narrative)
2. The Prophets: Isaiah 42 & 43 (Songs of the Servants); Hosea Ch 1 & 2 (Marriage symbolism)
3. The Psalms: Psalms 27, 42-43 (Fearlessness, Lament in exile)
4. Shlomo Sand – *Mytherritory*

Texts:

1. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989.
2. Shlomo Sand, *The Invention of the Land of Israel – From Holy Land to Homeland*, Verso, London and New York, 2014.

Suggested Readings:

1. Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Prophets*. New York: Harper and Row, 1962
2. Neusner, Jacob. *Early Rabbinic Judaism*, Leiden, 1975
3. Segel, Allen. 'Judaism' in *World Religions: Western Traditions*, edited by W.G. Oxtoby, New York, Oxford University Press
4. Smith, Huston. *The Soul of Christianity: Restoring the Great Traditions*, Harper San Francisco, 2005.
5. Unterman, Alan. *Jews: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*, Boston, 1981.
6. Weingreen, J. *From Bible to Mishna*, New York, 1976.

SPECIAL TEXT (INDIAN)

Text: Rabindranath Tagore: *The Religion of Man*

Des-04: CRITIQUE OF RELIGION – I

Text: G.P. Deshpande (Ed.), *Selected Writings of Jotirao Phule*, Leftword Boks, Delhi, 2002.

SEMESTER-VI

C-13: BUDDHISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. Jatakas (Selections)
2. Dhammapada (Selections)
3. Buddhist India: T. W. Rhys Davids (Ch 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16)

Suggested Readings:

1. Amore, Roy & Julia Ching. "The Buddhist Tradition", in Oxtoby edited *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*.
2. Fausball V. *Ten Jatakas: The original Pali Text with a Translation and Notes*, Bibliolife, 2009.
3. Davids, T. W. Rhys. *Buddhist India*, Delhi: Low Price Publications.
4. Richard, H Robinson. *The Buddhist Religion*
5. Warder, A. K. *Indian Buddhism*
6. Zurcher, E. *Buddhism: Its Origin and Spread in Words, Maps and Pictures*.

C14: CHRISTIANITY – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. The Gospel according to Luke: Ch 2, 4, 6, 10: 25-37, 14, 23, 24.
2. The Acts of the Apostles: Ch 2, 15: 1-35, 17: 16-34.
3. The Letters of Paul: 1 Corinthian, Ch 13-15.
4. Peniel Rajkumar: *Reading for Liberation – Revisiting Christology*

Texts:

1. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989
2. Peniel Rajkumar, *Dalit Theology and Dalit Liberation – Problems, Paradigms and Possibilities*, Ashgate Publishing Company, Burlington, 2010.

Suggested Readings:

1. Cross, F.L. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1957.
2. Gilson, Etienne. *History of Christian Philosophy in the Middle Ages*, New York: Random House, 1955.
3. Kung, Hans. *On being a Christian (trans. From German by Edward Quinn)*. New York: Doubleday, 1976.
4. Lewis, C.S. Mere. *Christianity*, London: Bles, 1952.
5. Oxtoby, Willard G. "The Christian Tradition", in his edited volume, *World Religions: Western Traditions*, New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1996.
6. Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Jesus Through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985.
7. Ruether, R. AND E. McLaughlin (Eds.). *Women of Spirit: Female Leadership in the Jewish and Christian Traditions*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979.

8. Zernov, N. *Eastern Christendom: A study of the Origin and Development of the Eastern Orthodox Church*, London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson; New York: Putnam, 1961.

DSE-05: CONFUCIANISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. Life and Teaching of Confucius – Confucian Ethics – Superior Man (Junzi) – Rectification of Names – Heaven (Tien)
2. *The Analects* (Selections)

Suggested Readings:

1. *Sources of Chinese Tradition* compiled by Theodore De Barry.
2. Ling-Tsit Cham, Burton Watson, Ch. 2 (Confucious)
3. D.C. Lau, *Confucius: The Analects*, Penguin Books, 1979, (Ch- Introduction)

DSE-06: ZOROASTRIANISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

1. Textual Sources for the Study of Zoroastrianism by Mary Boyce. 1984. (Introduction)
2. The Sacred Books of the East, Vol. 4, Introduction by James Darmesteter
3. The Avesta: The Gathas (all the 17 Hymns)
4. The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism (2015): Chap. 10: The Parsis by John R. Hinnells; and Chap. 22: Rituals by Michael Stausberg and Ramiyar P. Karanjia

DSE-07: SPECIAL TEXT (WESTERN)

Text: Rudolf Otto. *The Idea of the Holy*, Oxford University Press, 1958. (Selections from the Chapters I to IX, XIV, XVII, XXI)

DSE-08: CRITIQUE OF RELIGION – II

Text: Vasant Moon (Ed.), *Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings and Speeches, Vol. 4*, Education Department, Govt of Maharashtra, Bombay, 1987.
