

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & COMPARATIVE RELIGION
VISVA-BHARATI
SANTINIKETAN**

SYLLABUS FOR M.A. COURSE IN COMPARATIVE RELIGION (2017)

Semester		Paper Code	Title
Sem-I	Compulsory	MACOMRCP101	Phenomenon of Religion
		MACOMRCP102	History of Comparative Religion
		MACOMRCP103	Sociology of Religion
		MACOMRCP104	Anthropology of Religion
		MACOMRCP105	Inter-Religious Dialogue and Religious Studies
		MACOMRCP106	Methodology and Report Writing
Sem-II	Compulsory	MACOMRCP201	Ritual Studies
		MACOMRCP202	Psychology of Religion
		MACOMRCP203	Existentialism and Religion
		MACOMRCP204	Phenomenology of Religion
		MACOMRCP205	Religion in the Contemporary World
		MACOMRCP206	Textual Study and Dissertation
Sem-III	Optional	MACOMROP301	Mystical Traditions of India – I
		MACOMROP302	Modern Religious Movements in India – I
		MACOMROP303	Modern Islamic Movements – I
		MACOMROP304	Religious Thoughts of Rabindranath Tagore – I
		MACOMROP305	Women and Religion – I
		MACOMROP306	Scripture as Literature – I
		MACOMROP307	Contemporary Hindu Studies – I
	Special	MACOMRSP301	Islam and Sufism – I
		MACOMRSP302	Jaina Doctrines – I
		MACOMRSP303	The Bhagavad Gita (Classical Commentaries)
		MACOMRSP304	Recent Religious Thinkers of the West
		MACOMRSP305	Christianity – New Testament Studies
		MACOMRSP306	Postcolonial Studies in Religion – I
		MACOMRSP307	The Feminine In Hindu Religious Tradition – I (Divine Feminine)
Sem-IV	Optional	MACOMROP401	Mystical Traditions of India – II
		MACOMROP402	Modern Religious Movements in India – II
		MACOMROP403	Modern Islamic Movements – II
		MACOMROP404	Religious Thoughts of Rabindranath Tagore – II
		MACOMROP405	Women and Religion – II
		MACOMROP406	Scripture as Literature – II
		MACOMROP407	Contemporary Hindu Studies – II
	Special	MACOMRSP401	Islam and Sufism – II
		MACOMRSP402	Jaina Doctrines – II
		MACOMRSP403	The Bhagavad Gita (Modern Commentaries)
		MACOMRSP404	Recent Religious Thinkers of India
		MACOMRSP405	Christianity – Early Christianity and Apostles
		MACOMRSP406	Postcolonial Studies in Religion – II
		MACOMRSP407	The Feminine in Hindu Religious Tradition – II (Position of Woman)

Note: There would be total twentyfour Papers divided into four semesters, each having four units. Each paper consists of 50 marks, out of which 10 marks (each paper) would be continuous evaluation. 3 Optional Papers and 3 Special Papers are to chosen from each concerned Semester.

Syllabus: M.A Comparative Religion: Details of each Paper

PAPER - MACOMRCP101: PHENOMENON OF RELIGION

1. Definition of Religion
2. Analysis of Religious Experience in Different Religions.

3. Symbolism

Text:

W.C.Smith: *The Meaning and End of Religion* (selections). Minneapolis; Fortress, 1991

Suggested Readings:

1. Bowker, John W. *The Oxford Dictionary of World Religions*. Oxford : Oxford Univ. Pr. 1997 / 1999.
2. *Encyclopedia of Religion* (Mircea Eliade, gen. ed.) New York : Macmillan [pertinent entries].
3. Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books, 2000 (c1973).
4. Otto, Rudolf. *Mysticism East and West*. New York: Macmillan 1970 (1932).
5. Ricoeur, Paul. *The Symbolism of Evil* (trans. By Emerson Buchanan). Boston: Beacon Pr., 1970.
6. Streng, Frederick J. *Understanding Religious Life*, 3rd ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Pub. Co. 1985.

PAPER - MACOMRCP102: HISTORY OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION

1. What is Comparative Religion
2. The antecedents of Comparative Religion
3. Herbert Spencer, C.P Tiele and F. Max Muller
4. Darwinism and Religion

Texts:

1. Eric J. Sharpe: *Comparative Religion: A History* (selections), London: Duckworth, 1975.
2. Trevor Ling: "Why compare religion?" *Visva-Bharati Quarterly*.

Suggested Readings:

1. Eliade Mircea. *Patterns in Comparative Religion*, Cleveland: World Pub Co., 1970
2. Kitagawa Joseph (eds). *The history of religions: retrospect and prospect*, New York: Macmillan, 1985
3. Capps Walter, *Religious studies: The making of a discipline*, Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995
4. Kedarnath Tiwari, *Comparative Religion*, Benaras

PAPER - MACOMRCP103: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

1. Karl Marx – *Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right* (Selections)
2. Emile Durkheim – *Elementary of Forms of Religious Life* (Selections) – Introduction, Book I (Chapters I to IV)
3. Max Weber – *Sociology of Religion* (Selections) – Chapters I, VI, VII & XI

Texts:

1. John Raines (Ed.), *Marx on Religion*, Temple University Press, Philadelphia, 2002.
2. Emile Durkheim, Joseph Ward Swain (Tr.), *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, 1976.
3. Max Weber, Ephraim Fischhoff (Tr.), *The Sociology of Religion*, Methuen and Co Ltd., London, 1965

PAPER - MACOMRCP104: ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION

1. Beginnings of the Anthropological Study of Religion
2. British School of Anthropology: Tylor, and Frazer
3. 20th Century Anthropology of Religion: B. Malinowski, Arnold van Gennep, C. Geertz
4. Critique of Major Anthropological Theories of Religion: Talal Asad

Suggested Readings:

1. E. B. Tylor, *Primitive Culture* (London: Murray, 1873) (Selections)
2. J. G. Frazer, *The Golden Bough* (New York: Macmillan, 1935) (Selections)
3. B Malinowski, *Magic, Science and Religion and Other Essays* (Illinois: The Free Press, 1948) (Selections)
4. Arnold van Gennep, *The Rites of Passage* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1960)
5. C. Geertz, *The Interpretation of Culture* (New York: Basic Books, 1973)
6. Talal Asad, "The Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category," in *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam* (Baltimore: MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993, pp. 27-54.)

PAPER - MACOMRCP105: INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

1. What is inter-religious dialogue
2. A brief history of inter religious dialogue
3. Inter-religious dialogue and ethical action
4. Inter-religious dialogue in Religious Studies

Suggested Readings:

1. Ariarajah, W. *Not Without My Neighbor: Issues in Interfaith Relations*. WCC, 1999.
2. Braybrooke, M. *Pilgrimage of Hope: One Hundred Years of Global Interfaith Dialogue*. Crossroad, 1992.
3. Carmody, D. and J. *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*. OUP, 1996.
4. Eck, D. *The New Religious America: How a "Christian Country" has Become the World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1992.
5. Hick, J. *An Interpretation of Religion: Human Responses to the Transcendent*, 2nd ed. Yale UP, 2005.
6. Eric J. Sharpe: *Comparative Religion: A History*, London: Duckworth, 1975.
7. http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Inter-religious_Dialogue#Interreligious_Dialogue_and_Ethics
8. Dara-Shikoh, *Majmaul-Bahrain* (Tr.), Asiatic Society, Kolkata

PAPER - MACOMRCP106: METHODOLOGY AND REPORT WRITING

1. Types and Methods of Research
2. Review of Literature
3. Note-Taking, References, Bibliography
4. Planning Research
5. Report Writing

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.

PAPER - MACOMRCP201: RITUAL STUDIES

1. Catherine Bell: *Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice*

Text:

1. Catherine Bell, *Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1992.

Suggested Reading:

1. Catherine Bell, *Ritual – Perspectives and Dimensions*, Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York, 2009.

PAPER - MACOMRCP202: PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

1. Beginnings of the Psychological Study of Religion
2. The Nature of Religious Experience: William James
3. Religion as Illusion: Sigmund Freud
4. Religion as Collective Unconscious: Carl Jung

Suggested Readings:

1. W. James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (The Fontana Library, 1960) (Selections)
2. S. Freud, *Totem and Taboo* (George Routledge and Sons Ltd., 1919) (Chapter 3)
3. S. Freud, *The Future of an Illusion* (W.W. Norton & Company, 1989) (Selections)
4. S. Freud, *Civilisation and its Discontents* (W. W. Norton & Comp., 1989) (Chapter 1)
5. S. Freud, *Moses and Monotheism* (Hogarth press, 1939) (First Section)
6. C.G. Jung, *Psychology & Religion: West and East* (Princeton University Press, 1969) (Selections)

PAPER - MACOMRCP203: EXISTENTIALISM AND RELIGION

1. Soren Kierkegaard: *Revolt against Hegel's Rationalism – Attack on Church – Existence – Anxiety – Truth as Subjectivity – Freedom and Subjectivity – Stages of Existence: Don Juan, Socrates and Abraham*
2. Freiderich Nietzsche: *Genealogy of Morals – Asceticism – Critique of Modernity – Critique of Christian Virtues – Critique of Religions (including Buddhism, Manu) – Revaluation of Values – Will to Power – Death of God – Superman/Overman*

Suggested Readings:

1. Robert C. Solomon, *From Rationalism to Existentialism*, Rowman and Little Field Publishers, New York and Oxford, 2001.
2. H.J. Blackham, *Six Existential Thinkers*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London and Boston, 1985.
3. Walter Kaufmann, *Nietzsche – Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist*, Princeton University Press, 1975.

4. Friedrich Nietzsche, R.J. Hollingdale (Tr.), *Twilight of the Idols and the Anti-Christ*, Penguin Books, London and New York, 2003.
5. -----, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Penguin Books, London and New York, 2003.

PAPER - MACOMRCP204: PHENOMENOLOGY OF RELIGION

1. Phenomenology of Religion: An Overview
2. From Philosophical phenomenology to Phenomenology of religion
3. Methodological phenomenology
4. Typological phenomenology
5. Some prominent phenomenologists: Gerardus van der Leeuw, Joachim Wach, Mircea Eliade, Rudolf Otto

Suggested Readings:

1. Eric J. Sharpe: *Comparative Religion: A History* (selections), London: Duckworth, 1975.
2. Wach Joachim. *The comparative study of religions*, New York: Columbia Univ. Pr., 1958
3. Cox, J. (2006). *A Guide to the Phenomenology of Religion*; T&T Clarck International, London
4. Cox, J. (2010). *An Introduction to the Phenomenology of Religion*; Continuum, London
5. Smart, N. (2009). *Ninian Smart on World Religions Vol.1: Religious Experience and Philosophical Analysis*; ed. by J. Shepherd; Farnham, Ashgate
6. Rudolf Oto. *The Idea Of The Holy*, OUP USA, 1968
7. Mircea Eliade. *The Sacred and The Profane: The Nature o Religion*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1959

PAPER - MACOMRCP205: RELIGION IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

1. Religion and politics
2. Religious Terrorism
3. Religious Pluralism
4. Science and Religion
5. Humanism, Tolerance and Secularism

Suggested Readings:

1. Dumont, Louis. *Religion, Politics and History in India: Collected Papers in Indian Sociology*. The Hague & Paris: Mouton, 1971
2. Balsubramanium : Tolerance
3. William L. Rowe, "Religious Pluralism": Cambridge University Press, Religious Studies, Vol.35 No.2 June 1999.
4. Storey, John W. and Utter, Glenn H. *Religion and Politics (Selections): Introduction*
5. Sharma, Arvind. *Women in Indian Religions*. Albany: Matilal Banarsidas
6. Smith, Donald Eugene. *India as a Secular State*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Pr., 1963.
7. Murry, William R. *Reason and Reverence: Religious Humanism for the 21st Century*. Boston: Skinner House Books, 2007.
8. Abu-Nimer, Mohammed. *Nonviolence and Peace-building in Islam: Theory and Practice*. Gainesville, FL: Univ. Pr. of Florida, c2003.
9. Chatterjee, Partha. *A Possible Indian –Essays in Political Criticism*, Oxford University Press. (1998).
10. Bagir, Zainul Abidin (ed.). *Science and Religion in a Post-Colonial World: Interfaith Perspectives*. Adelaide, SA: ATF Press, c2005.
11. Hick, John. *The New Frontier of Religion and Science : Religious Experience, Neuroscience, and the Transcendent*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.
12. Sagan, Carl. *The Varieties of Scientific Experience : a personal view of the search for God*. New York: Penguin Press, 2006.
13. Chapple, Christopher Key. *Nonviolence to Animals, Earth, and Self in Asian Traditions*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1993.
14. Morgan, Peggy. *Ethical Issues in Six Religious Traditions*. Edinburgh Univ. Pr., c1996.
15. Raju, Karam Singh. *Ethical Perceptions of World Religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism : A comparative study*. Amritsar: Guru Nanak Dev Univ., 2002.
16. Ranganathan, Shyam. *Ethics and the History of Indian Philosophy*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2007.
17. Tucker, Mary Evelyn, & John A. Grim (eds.). *Worldviews and Ecology*. Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell Univ. Pr., 1993.
18. Eck, Diana L. *A New Religious America: How a "Christian Country" has now become the world's most religiously diverse nation*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2002 (c2001).

19. Knitter, Paul. *The Myth of Religious Superiority: Multifaith Explorations of Religious Pluralism*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, c2005.
20. Slater, Robert H.L. *World Religions and World Community*. New York: Columbia Univ. Pr., 1963.
21. Ahmed, Rafiuddin. *Religion, Identity & Politics: Essays on Bangladesh*. Colorado Springs, CO: International Academic Publishers, c2001.
22. Mendieta, Eduardo (ed.). *The Frankfurt School on Religion: Key Writings by the Major Thinkers*. New York: Routledge, 2005.
23. Smith, Bardwell L. (ed.). *Religion and Social Conflict in South Asia*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1976.
24. Carmody, Denise Kardner. *Women and World Religions*. Englewood, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1989.
25. Montiero, S.C. Evelyn, and M.M. Antoinette Gutzler (eds.). *Ecclesia of Women in Asia: Gathering the Voices of the Silenced*. ISPCK, 2005.
26. Sharma, Arvind. *Women in World Religions*. Albany: SUNY Press., c1987.
27. Lannstrom, Anna. *Promise and Peril : The Paradox of Religion as Resource and Threat*. Univ. of Notre Dame Pr., c2003.
28. Rinehart, James F. *Apocalyptic Faith and Political Violence : Prophets of Terror*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.
29. Zaehner, Robert Charles. *Our Savage God: The Perverse Use of Eastern Thought*. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1974

PAPER - MACOMRCP206: TEXTUAL 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

OPTIONAL PAPERS

PAPER - MACOMROP301: MYSTICAL TRADITIONS OF INDIA – I

1. Sri Chaitanya
2. Mirabai

Suggested Readings:

1. *Cultural Heritage of India*. Vol IV.
2. *Great Women of India*. Advaita Ashram. Pages:328-330.
3. Sushil Kr. Dey. *The Early History of the Vaishnava Faith movement in Bengal*, Firma:KL,Calcutta,1961
4. Trilochan Singh. *The ethical history of Guru Nanak*, New Delhi,1969
5. Banku Bihari. *Sufi mystics and yogis of India*, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay
6. West Catt. *Kabir and Kibir Panth*, G. H. Munshiram Manoharlal
7. R.A. Nicholson, *The mystics of Islam*, London
8. Ksitimohan Sen. *Medieval Mysticism of India*, Lurge, London, Reprint Delhi, 1974.
9. C. Vaudeville. *Kabir*, Vol.I. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1974.
10. Krishna Sharma. *Bhakti and The Bhakti Movement: A New Perspective*, Munshiram Manoharlal, 1987.

PAPER - MACOMROP302: MODERN RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN INDIA – I

1. Brahma Samaj
2. Ramakrishna Mission

Suggested Readings:

1. Gonda J. *Change and continuity in Indian religion*, Munshiram Manoharlal.
2. J.N. Farquhar, *Modern religious movements in India*, Macmillan, New York, 1915
3. S.P. Sen(Ed), *Religious reform movements*
4. Joseph T. O'Connell (ed), *Organisational and Institutional aspects of Indian Religious Movements*.
5. Robert D. Baird, *Religion in Modern India*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2nd ed. 1994.
6. Binoy Gopal Roy. *Religious movements in Modern Bengal*, Santiniketan: Visva-Bharati, 1964

PAPER - MACOMROP303: MODERN ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS – I

1. Baha'i movement
2. Ahmedia movement

Suggested Readings:

1. Laven Spencer, *Ahmedia Movement: A History and Perspective*, Manohar, 1974

2. Julius Germanus, *Modern Movements In Islam*, V.B. Research Publication
3. Barbara Daly Metcalf, *Islamic Revivalism*, Oxford University Press
4. Qiyamuddin Ahmed, *The Wahabi Movement in India*, Calcutta, 1968
5. Moinuddin Ahmed Khan, *A History of Faraizi Movement in Bengal*, Karachi, 1965
6. Muhammad Iqbal, *Reconstruction of Islamic Religious thought*, Lahore

PAPER - MACOMROP304: RELIGIOUS THOUGHTS OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE – I

Texts:

1. Sadhana
2. The Religion of Man

PAPER - MACOMROP305: WOMEN AND RELIGION – I

Status of women in various religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism

Suggested Readings:

1. Arvind Sharma (ed.). *Women in World Religions*, Albany: Suny Press, 1987
2. June McDaniel. *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls: Popular Goddess Worship in West Bengal*, Oxford University Press, 2004 (Chapters: Introduction, The great Bhakti Goddesses of West Bengal: Durga & Kali)

PAPER - MACOMROP306: SCRIPTURE AS LITERATURE – I

1. Paul Ricoeur: Text and Meaning
2. Roland Barthes: Readerly Text/Writerly Text – Intertextuality – Death of Author
3. Edward Said: Worldliness of the Text – Location of the Author – Orientalism

Texts:

1. Paul Ricoeur, *Model of the Text: Meaningful Action Considered as Text*, *New Literary History*, Vol. 5, No.1, 1973, pp. 91 – 117.
2. Roland Barthes, Richard Howard (Tr.), *The Death of the Author*, available in <http://www.ubu.com/aspen/aspen5and6/threeEssays.html#barthes>
3. Edward W. Said, *Orientalism*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London and Henley, 1978.
4. Edward W. Said, *The World, the Text and the Critic*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge and Massachusetts, 1983

PAPER - MACOMROP307: CONTEMPORARY HINDU STUDIES – I

1. The Hindu identity
2. What does it mean to be a Hindu?
3. The difficulties involved in defining the Hindu identity
4. Bhakti, Tantra and Yoga Traditions in the Hindu Life
5. Vaishnava and Shakta Bhakti,
6. Tantric and Yogic Shaktism
7. Divine madness and ecstasy
8. Holy men and women: Saints, Gurus, Siddhas
9. Hinduism in Practice and Belief
10. The belief-practice complex and its significance for a Hindu through the “text” of a sacred city

Texts:

1. McDaniel, June. *The Madness of the Saints*, University of Chicago Press, 1989. [Relevant sections]
2. McDaniel, June, *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls*, OUP USA, 2004 [Relevant sections]
3. Eck, Diana L. *Benaras: City of Light*, Penguin books India, 1993. [Relevant sections]
4. David N. Lorenzen, *Who Invented Hinduism?*, Yoda Press, New Delhi, 2006.

PAPER - MACOMROP401: MYSTICAL TRADITIONS OF INDIA – II

1. Nanak
2. Kabir
3. Daadu

Suggested Readings:

1. *Cultural Heritage of India*. Vol IV.
2. *Great Women of India*. Advaita Ashram. Pages: 328-330.
3. Sushil Kr. Dey. *The Early History of the Vaishnava Faith movement in Bengal*, Firma: KL, Calcutta, 1961

4. Trilochan Singh. *The ethical history of Guru Nanak*, New Delhi, 1969
5. Banku Bihari. *Sufi mystics and yogis of India*, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay
6. West Catt. *Kabir and Kibir Panth*, G. H. Munshiram Manoharlal
7. R.A. Nicholson, *The mystics of Islam*, London
8. Ksitimohan Sen. *Medieval Mysticism of India*, Lurge, London, Reprint Delhi, 1974.
9. C. Vaudeville. *Kabir*, Vol. I. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1974.
10. Krishna Sharma. *Bhakti and The Bhakti Movement: A New Perspective*, Munshiram Manoharlal, 1987

PAPER - MACOMROP402: MODERN RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN INDIA – II

1. Arya Samaj
2. Ambedkar Movement

Suggested Readings:

1. Gonda J. *Change and continuity in Indian religion*, Munshiram Manoharlal.
2. J.N. Farquhar, *Modern religious movements in India*, Macmillan, New York, 1915
3. S.P. Sen (Ed), *Religious reform movements*
4. Joseph T. O'Connell (ed), *Organisational and Institutional aspects of Indian Religious Movements*.
5. Robert D. Baird, *Religion in Modern India*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2nd ed. 1994.
6. Binoy Gopal Roy. *Religious movements in Modern Bengal*, Santiniketan: Visva-Bharati, 1964

PAPER - MACOMROP403: MODERN ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS – II

1. Faraizi and Wahabi movement
2. Tariqa-e-Muhammadiya Movement

Suggested Readings:

1. Julius Germanus, *Modern Movements In Islam*, V.B. Research Publication
2. Barbara Daly Metcalf, *Islamic Revivalism*, Oxford University Press
3. Qiyamuddin Ahmed, *The Wahabi Movement in India*, Calcutta, 1968
4. Moinuddin Ahmed Khan, *A History of Faraizi Movement in Bengal*, Karachi, 1965
5. Muhammad Iqbal, *Reconstruction of Islamic Religious thought*, Lahore

PAPER - MACOMROP404: RELIGIOUS THOUGHTS OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE – II

Texts:

1. Personality
2. *Dharma* (Bengali) [Rabindra Rachanavali , WB, Vol 12]

PAPER - MACOMROP405: WOMEN AND RELIGION – II

1. The Divine Feminine in Religion
2. Role of Women in world Religions

Suggested Reading:

1. Arvind Sharma (ed.). *Women in World Religions*, Albany: Suny Press, 1987
2. June McDaniel. *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls: Popular Goddess Worship in West Bengal*, Oxford University Press, 2004 (Chapters: Introduction, The great Bhakti Goddesses of West Bengal: Durga & Kali)

PAPER - MACOMROP406: SCRIPTURE AS LITERATURE – II

1. Bible as Literature: Literary Forms and Strategies – Formation of Canon – Use and Interpretation
2. Mythistory in Judaism
3. Theology of *Japu* and *Asa di Var* and the Milieu
4. Interpreting Gita in the Nationalist Context: *Nishkama Karma* and *Svadharm*
5. Three Hundred Ramayanas: Five Examples and Three Thoughts on Translation

Texts:

1. John B. Cabel, Charles B. Wheeler and Anthony D. York, *The Bible as Literature – An Introduction*, Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1996.
2. Shlomo Sand, *The Invention of the Jewish People*, Verso, London and New York, 2010.
3. J.S. Grewal, *Four Centuries of Sikh Tradition – History, Literature and Identity*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2013.
4. Nagappa Gowda, *The Bhagavadgita in the Nationalist Discourse*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2011.
5. Paula Richman, *Many Ramayanas*, University of California Press, 1992.

PAPER - MACOMROP407: CONTEMPORARY HINDU STUDIES – II

1. Folk Traditions and Hinduism
2. Village gods and goddesses
3. The 'Bhor' culture
4. Love of the bodily God: Auls, Bauls and Sahajiyas
5. Alternative Voices in Hindu Texts
6. Narratives of and about religions/cultures/castes/gender(women)/ species(animals) representing the 'others' to the high caste Hindu males who represent the dominant voice of Hinduism.

Texts:

1. McDaniel, June, *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls*, OUP USA, 2004 [Relevant sections]
2. Doniger, Wendy. *The Hindus: an alternative history*, The Penguin Press, USA, 2009 [Relevant sections]

Suggested Readings:

1. Flood, Gavin, *An Introduction to Hinduism*, Cambridge University press, 1996, 2004
2. ----, *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, OUP, UK, 2003
3. Basham, A.L. *The Wonder that was India*, 1954
4. Narayanan, Vasudha. *Hinduism: Origins, Beliefs, Practices*, OUP, NY, 2004.
5. Eck, Diana L. *Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey From Bozeman to Benaras*, Penguin Books, 1995.
6. S.N. Balagangadhara, *The Heathen in his Blindness*

SPECIAL PAPERS**PAPER - MACOMRSP301: ISLAM AND SUFISM – I**

1. Ideals of Islam
2. Ethical outlook of Islam
3. Rationalistic and Philosophical aspects of Islam : (i) Zabariyah and Qadariyah (ii) Mutazilah and Ashariah (iii) Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd, Al Gazali.

Suggested Readings:

1. Sir Syed Amir Ali. *The Spirit of Islam*, Macmillan
2. John L. Esposito. *Islam: The Straight Path*, New York, 1998.
3. AAA Faizee. *A Modern Approach to Islam*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1981.
4. P.K. Hitti. *Islam: A way of Life*, London, 1970.
5. M M Sharif History of Muslim Philosophy, Vol 1-2
6. W C Smith : On Outstanding Islam
7. Al Ghazali, *Ihya-Ulumuddin*, Tr. By Maulana Fazlul Karim
8. Oliver Leaman and Syed H. Nasr, *History of Islamic Philosophy*, Vol- 1 & 2, USA

PAPER - MACOMRSP302: JAINA DOCTRINES – I

1. Tattvartha Sutra by Umasvati (pp.165-249)
 - a) Chapter – vii: The Vows
 - b) Chapter – viii: Karmic Bondage
 - c) Chapter – ix: Inhibiting and Wearing off Karma
2. Padmanabha S. Jain. *Collected papers of Jaina Studies*. (pp.147-161 & 229-252)
 - a) Chapter – viii: *Muktivacar of Bhavasana*: Text and Translation
 - b) Chapter – xii: The Pure and the Auspicious in the Jaina Tradition

PAPER - MACOMRSP303: THE BHAGAVAD GITA (CLASSICAL COMMENTARIES)

1. The Gita: Sankara Bhasya
2. Mahabharata (Santiparva)

Suggested Readings:

1. Sitansu S. Chakravarty. *Essay in the Mahabharata*, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
2. Bimal Krishna Matilal. *Moral Dilemmas in the Mahabharata*, IAS Shimla & Motilal Banarasidas Delhi.
3. Sukhamay Bhattacharya. *Mahabharater Samaj*, V.B. Research Publications. (in Bengali)

PAPER - MACOMRSP304: RECENT RELIGIOUS THINKERS OF THE WEST

1. Martin Buber: Selections from 'I and Thou'

2. Rudolf Otto: Selections from '(The) Idea Of The Holy'

Suggested Readings:

1. W. Radice (ed.). *Swami Vivekananda and Modernization of Hinduism*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1998.
2. Jesse Roarke. *Sri Aurobindo*, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Press, Pondicherry, 1973.
3. Paul Tillich. *Christianity and the encounter of World Religions*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1963.
4. Romain Rolland. *The Life of Vivekananda: And the Universal Gospel*, Advaita Ashram publication Dept., 2004.

PAPER - MACOMRSP305: CHRISTIANITY – NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

St. John: Gospel and Letters

Text:

The New Orford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989.

Suggested Readings:

1. Cross, F.L., *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Oxford University Press, London, 1957.
2. Ruether, R. and McLaughlin, E., *Women of Spirit: Female Leadership in the Jewish and Christian Traditions*, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1979.
3. Oxtoby, Willard G., *The Christian Tradition*, in his edited volume, *World Religions: Western Traditions*, Oxford University Press, London, 1996

PAPER - MACOMRSP306: POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES IN RELIGION – I

1. Colonialism and Orientalism – An Overview
2. Postcolonialism – History, Method and Strategies
3. Sugirtharajah: *Empire Exegetes Back – Postcolonial Reading Practices*

Texts:

1. R.S. Sugirtharajah, *Exploring Postcolonial Biblical Criticism – History, Method, Practice*, Wiley-Blackwell, Sussex, 2012.

Suggested Readings:

1. Cesaire, Aime, Joan Pinkham (Tr.), *Discourse on Colonialism*, Aakar Books, Delhi, 2010.
2. Loomba, Ania, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*, Routledge, London and New York, 2005.
3. McLeod, John, *Beginning Postcolonialism*, Viva Books, New Delhi, 2010.
4. Memmi, Albert, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, Earthscan Publications Ltd., London, 2003.
5. Said, Edward W., *Orientalism*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London and Henley, 1978.

PAPER - MACOMRSP307: THE FEMININE IN HINDU RELIGIOUS TRADITION – I (DIVINE FEMININE)

1. Feminine in the Scriptures
2. The Feminine as a cosmological category: Yoga & Tantra
3. Shaktism
4. Folk Shaktism
5. The Bhakti Goddesses

Texts:

Appropriate sections from scriptures and books will be prescribed during classes to cover the topics of study.

Suggested Readings:

1. Rigvedic Hymns
2. Devi Bhagavata Purana
3. McDaniel, June. *The Madness of the Saints*, University of Chicago Press, 1989.
4. McDaniel, June, *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls*, OUP USA, 2004
5. -----*Making Virtuous Daughters and Wives*
6. Eck, Diana L. *Benaras: City of Light*, Penguin books India, 1993.
7. Altekar, A.S. *The Position of Women in Hindu Civilization*, Moilal Banarasidass Publishers, Delhi, 12th reprint, 2016.
8. Padia, Chandrakanta (Ed.). *Women in Dharmasastras: A Phenomenological and Critical Analysis*, Rawat Publication, 2009.
9. Sharma, Arvind (Ed.). *Goddesses And Women in the Indic Religious Tradition*, Indica Books, 2007.

PAPER – MACOMRSP401: ISLAM AND SUFISM – II

1. What is Sufism
2. History of Sufism
3. The Mystics of Islam

Texts:

1. Sarraj-Abu Nasr. *Kitab – al – Luma fit Tasawwuf*, Translated by R.A. Nicholson, Leiden & London, 1914. (selections)
2. Hujwiri Ali bin Uthman. *The Kashf – al Mahjub*, Translated by R.A. Nicholson, Taj Company, New Delhi, 1991. (selections)

Suggested Readings:

1. A.J. Arberry. *Sufism: An Account of the Mystics of Islam*, London: Mandala Books 1979, 1980.
2. Rizvi Saiyad Athar Abbas. *A History of Sufism in India*, Vol. I & II, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 1978.
3. Sehhimmel Annemari, *Mystical Dimensions of Islam*, The University of North Carolina Pr., Chapel Hill, 1975
4. Ansari Abdul Haq. *Sufism and Shariah*, Islamic Foundation, London, 1986.
5. Md. Sirajul Islam. *Sufism and Bhakti: A Comparative Study*, The Council For Research in Values and Philosophy, Washington DC, 2004.

PAPER – MACOMRSP402: JAINA DOCTRINES – II

1. Dayananda Bhargab: *Jaina Ethics*:
 - a) Chapter iv: The Path of Three Jewels
 - b) Chapter v: The conduct of a householder
 - c) Chapter vi: The conduct of a Jaina Monk
2. Vilas Sanghavi: *Jaina Religion and Community*. (pp.132-193)
 - a) Chapter iv: Jaina Rituals and Customs
 - i. Section –1: Worship, Festivals and Fasts, Superstitions, Samskaras, Pilgrimage, Institutions, Literature and Language.
 - ii. Section –2: Jaina Festivals, Jaina Rites, Sacred Thread, Priest, Death Ceremonies, Religious Condition and Jaina Culture.
3. S. Stevenson. *The Heart of Jainism*. (selections)

PAPER – MACOMRSP403: THE BHAGAVAD GITA (MODERN COMMENTARIES)

Commentaries by Gandhi, by Tilak (*The Bhagawat Gita Rahasya*) and by Aurobindo (Essays on the *Gita*)

PAPER – MACOMRSP404: RECENT RELIGIOUS THINKERS OF INDIA

4. Swami Vivekananda:
 - a) Universal religion
 - b) Brahman and Maya
 - c) Concept of Self
 - d) Practical Vedanta

Text:

Selections from *Jnana Yoga* in Swami Vivekananda Complete Works, Mayavati Memorial Edition, Cal: Advaita Ashram.

5. Sri Aurobindo

Text:

Selections from *The Life Divine*, S Aurobindo, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry.

PAPER – MACOMRSP405: CHRISTIANITY – EARLY CHRISTIANITY AND APOSTLES

The Acts of the Apostles

Text:

The New Orford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989.

Suggested Readings:

2. Cross, F.L., *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Oxford University Press, London, 1957.
3. Ruether, R. and McLaughlin, E., *Women of Spirit: Female Leadership in the Jewish and Christian Traditions*, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1979.
4. Oxtoby, Willard G., *The Christian Tradition*, in his edited volume, *World Religions: Western Traditions*, Oxford University Press, London, 1996

PAPER – MACOMRSP406: POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES IN RELIGION – II

1. Fernando F. Segovia: *Biblical Criticism and Postcolonial Studies: Toward a Postcolonial Optic*
2. Kwok Pui-lan: *Making the Connections: Postcolonial Studies and Feminist Biblical Interpretation*
3. Sharada Sugirtharajah: *Max Muller and Textual Management: A Postcolonial Perspective*
4. Doris R. Jakobsh: *Of Colony and Gender*
5. Sharmila Rege: *The 'Madness of Manu'*

Texts:

1. R.S. Sugirtharajah (Ed.), *The Postcolonial Biblical Reader*, Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, 2006.
2. Rita Sherma and Arvind Sharma (Eds.), *Hermeneutics and Hindu Thought – Toward a Fusion of Horizon*, Springer, 2008.
3. Doris R. Jakobsh, *Relocating Gender in Sikh History – Transformation, Meaning and Identity*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2005.
4. Sharmila Rege, *Against the Madness of Manu – B.R. Ambedkar's Writings on Brahminical Patriarchy*, Navayana, New Delhi, 2013.

PAPER – MACOMRSP407: THE FEMININE IN HINDU RELIGIOUS TRADITION – II (POSITION OF WOMAN)

1. Women in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata
2. Biographies of Women Saints
3. Ideal women: The Mother and The Wife
4. Women in the Laws of Manu
5. Gender Issues: Suttee, Purdah, Hindu widows, women's education

Texts:

Appropriate sections from scriptures and books will be prescribed during classes to cover the topics of study.

Suggested Readings:

10. Rigvedic Hymns
 11. Devi Bhagavata Purana
 12. McDaniel, June. *The Madness of the Saints*, University of Chicago Press, 1989.
 13. McDaniel, June, *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls*, OUP USA, 2004
 14. -----*Making Virtuous Daughters and Wives*
 15. Eck, Diana L. *Benaras: City of Light*, Penguin books India, 1993.
 16. Altekar, A.S. *The Position of Women in Hindu Civilization*, Moilal Banarasidass Publishers, Delhi, 12th reprint, 2016.
 17. Padia, Chandrakanta (Ed.). *Women in Dharmasastras: A Phenomenological and Critical Analysis*, Rawat Publication, 2009.
 18. Sharma, Arvind (Ed.). *Goddesses And Women in the Indic Religious Tradition*, Indica Books, 2007.
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