

TEO-SAP-123 Christianity and World Religions

SEMESTER: Fall / Spring / Summer
CREDITS: 3 ECTS (Fall/Spring: 2 hrs. per week; Summer: 30 hours)
LANGUAGE: English
DEGREES: SAPIENS program

Course overview

The course helps to acquire **basic knowledge about the major world religions** and to **critically reflect** about their proposals. It will also deal with **current religious issues** such as dialogue between science and religion, secularization, religion and violence, etc.

This is basic to have a better **understanding of the plurality of humankind**, to **respect** it and to be able to **dialogue** about beliefs and worldviews, as well as being able to **reflect** about own ideas and religious beliefs.

Openness to difference and respect of it is vital in any workplace one may be.

Prerequisites

None

Course contents

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS

- Studying religion (approach to the main sciences that study religion from different perspectives).
- Diversity of religions (overview and main classifications of religions).

II. STUDY OF THE MAIN WORLD RELIGIONS

- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Islam
- Judaism

III. CHRISTIANITY

- Overview of Christian Theology.
- Different Christian denominations (history, similarities, and differences).
- Christianity and Spanish culture.

IV. CURRENT RELIGIOUS ISSUES

- Religion today (fundamentalism, sects, violence, interfaith dialogue, etc.).
- Science and religion.

Bibliography & Web Resources

BOOKS AND ARTICLES:

I. INTRODUCTION

- Azzopardi.S, (2018), Epistemology and Phenomenology of Religions. Creative Insights into Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, Pune, India: Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeet; New Delhi: Christian World Imprints.

II. STUDY OF THE MAIN RELIGIONS

- HINDUISM
 - Gandhi.M, (1994),The Essence of Hinduism, Greenleaf Books
 - Ghosh, B; Sombuddha Bagchi, S. (2017), Hinduism: Hinduism- Religion of Nature and Future
 - 14 Questions People Ask About Hinduism retrieved from <http://aha-svtemple.org>
 - Wilson.N, (1968), Three Ways of Asian Wisdom: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Zen and their significance for the West, A Clarion Book published by Simon and Schuster, New York.
- BUDDHISM
 - An Introduction to World Religions: Buddhism, Dublin City University
 - Gassner.F, (2015),The Comparative Study between buddhism and christianity on peace and war, Universidad Católica Portuguesa, Facultad de Teología de la Universidad Católica Portuguesa
 - Householder Fo'en, (2018), Buddihism for Beginners: Questions and Answers, Pure Land Buddhism Publishing Co.
 - Keown.D, (1996) Buddhism. A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, Oxford-New York.
 - Simão.J, (2019),“Some Tensions between Capitalism and Buddhism: A Reflection from McMindfulness”, International Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Society 9 (2019) 75-88.
- ISLAM
 - Abdur-Rahman Abdul-Kareem Al-Sheha,(2017),Islam is the religion of peace, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
 - Arkoun.M,(1994), Rethinking Islam. Common Questions, Uncommon Answers, Westview Press.
 - Ciftci,S. (s.f), Islamophobia and Threat Perceptions: Explaining Anti Muslim Sentiment in the West
 - Maurin, É; Nicolás Navarrete, N. (2019) Behind the Veil: The Effect of Banning the Islamic Veil in Schools, IZA, Institute of Labor Economics
 - Omer,.B. (2021)Opion Article: I Left Islam for Liberal Values. Now Woke Liberals Are Embracing a New Religion, Newsweek.

- Toenies,S ,(2008) What Catholics Should Know About Islam, General, Knights of Columbus Supreme Council
- JUDAISM
 - Cohn-Sherbok,D, (2001) Messianic Judaism, (page 168-180), Continuum
 - Steven S. Schwarzschild (2021) Essential Characteristics of the Jewish View of Reality: Judaism as a Living Historical Phenomenon

III.CHRISTIANITY

- Basics of Christianity, (s.f), retrieved from Peacewithgod.net.
- Christianity in View Comparison Table retrieved from <http://christianityinview.com>
- Rhodes.R,(1960), The Complete Guide to Christian Denominations. Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon.
- The Three Main Branches of Christianity Today retrieved from <https://www.wesleybakersfield.org>
- World Council of Churches Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue World Evangelical Alliance (s.f) Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World.

IV.CURRENT RELIGIOUS ISSUES

- Flew.A, (2008), There is a God: How the world's most notorious atheist changed his mind (HarperCollins).
- Kent D. Miller, (2019), "Responding to Fundamentalism: Secularism or Humble Faith?", Academy of Management Perspectives 33, 307-322.
- SCIENCE AND RELIGION
 - Allen,J. (2012), Science, Religion, and Society: The problem of evolution in america, University of Chicago.
- VIOLENCE AND RELIGION
 - Küng,H. (2005), Religion, violence and "holy wars", International Review of the Red Cross, Vol 87, Nºr 858
 - Why Is Religion Violent and Violence Religious?(s.f)Princeton University
- WOMEN AND RELIGION
 - Abirafeh.L, Rouhana.H, Sachedina.A, Salbi.Z, Spinks.C, Uchem. R, Vohra.S. (2003), CH Journal: The Impact of Religion on Women in the Development Process Vol-1, nº1.
 - Klingorová .K; HAVLÍČEK,T. (2015) Religion and gender inequality: The status of women in the societies of world religions, Vol 23.
- INTERFAITH AND RELIGION
 - Admirand,P. (2019) Humbling the Discourse: Why Interfaith Dialogue, Religious Pluralism, Liberation Theology, and Secular Humanism Are Needed for a Robust Public Square
- LGTBI AND RELIGION
 - Brenda L. Beagan & Brenda Hattie (2015) Religion, Spirituality, and LGBTQ Identity Integration, Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling, 9:2, 92-117, DOI
 - Wheeler,H. (2013), Sexuality & Religion: How Devoutly Religious Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Individuals Manage the Relationship Between their Sexuality and their Religion, Page 32

WEB RESOURCES

- www.vatican.va (Catholic documents, news, events, press releases)
- www.religion-online.org (religion news and links)

- <https://apnews.com/article/3dc6b0999bf04614b1de21863cbfdd66> Women strive for larger roles in male-dominated religions (Women and religion)
- <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/terrorism,-war-and-the-problem-of-religious-violence/11656464> Terrorism, war and the problem of “religious violence” (Religion and violence)
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53055632> (US Supreme Court backs protection for LGBT workers) LTBI AND RELIGION
- <https://www.britannica.com/browse/Religious-Beliefs>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lutheranism/History>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Anglicanism>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nestorianism>
- <https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/christianity-protestantism>
- <https://www.encyclopedia.com/philosophy-and-religion/christianity/protestant-denominations/protestantism>
- <https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/christianity-pentecostalism>
- <https://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/religion>
- <https://catholic-resources.org/Courses/Christianity-Branches.htm>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christianity/Christianity-and-world-religions>
- <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/branches>

"El Mundo" newspaper's religion charts: <http://estaticos.elmundo.es/aula/laminas/religiones.pdf>
<http://estaticos.elmundo.es/aula/laminas/hinduismo.pdf>
<http://estaticos.elmundo.es/aula/laminas/buda.pdf> <http://estaticos.elmundo.es/aula/laminas/islam.pdf>

VIDEOS

- Monotheism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djFAXvZ20qQ>
- Zorotheism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2tqV9u9vzY>
- Hinduism:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EICcU9oN-s>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTko0gJGmcs>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INv2gdpfXPQ>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWTdCorvOWU>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhTpJxJi2I>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8sj8pHSFuE>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16S_XjHqcZM
- Buddhism:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lxq-RiLb-6M>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-_cJU-pFwQ
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCA6ioTLw-Q>
- Islam:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAyY7Cq1V5A>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NT_btkLlho
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoC1fRavjUU>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojSkGvxFi4M>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDSTgKIQAzE>
- Judaism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfVy5uwvktA>

- Christianity:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQHMB7V9LtE>
 - General: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQjS6NGvIQ0>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWOpn8tRBME&feature=emb_logo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6bmHWtLqB8&feature=emb_logo
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o8oIElBNxE&feature=emb_logo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdZcqAss92w&feature=emb_logo
- Religion today:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzgQOY_usdw
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6U0Bvsrn8o>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN3wkG1s4TA>
 - [https://www.ted.com/talks/alaamurabit_what_my_religion_really_says_about_wome
n](https://www.ted.com/talks/alaamurabit_what_my_religion_really_says_about_women)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMb1UkkZsR8>
 - https://www.ted.com/talks/sharon_brous_it_s_time_to_reclaim_religion
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKdzYmVSMus>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYVfqvXo7WY>
- Science and religion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkAOprx8wus>

Grading

This subject will be assessed with **four grades**, which count for **25% each** of the final grade. They will be **four different activities** related to the issues that will be discussed in the class. Activities may include, for example:

- watching and critical assessment of a **TED talk or video**,
- reading and critical assessment of an **article**,
- comparing a **reflecting on the information** learnt in the class,
- a **test** about part of the contents,
- a small **presentation** of a topic that students would previously have prepared in groups
- a task that students would have to complete through **gamification**.

The teacher may give the students the opportunity of choosing between some of the activities, and/or the possibility of doing an **optional activity to get extra points**. This will be indicated when the course starts.

Instructions for assignments will be provided via Moodle.

*Those students who don't pass will have to repeat the failed activities or do new similar ones (that will be indicated by the teacher).