

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 principal goal of this course is to help the students become acquainted with the basic lines of Christianity and World Religions. Topics will include a Christian Catholic Worldview: Creation, Incarnation, Redemption, Social Ethics. Specifically, the course will consider various contemporary trends such as peace and justice, internationalism, Vatican II statements, women in the church.

The course also explores the roots of different religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.

The course includes time in class, tutorial time and on-site visits to temples and mosques, as well as independent research.

Prerequisites

None

Course contents

Theory:

1. Foundations of Religious Doctrine

- 1.1. Approaches to the study of Religion
 - 1.1.1. The positive study of religious doctrine: religious sciences and phenomenology of religion.
 - 1.1.2. The structure of religious doctrine according to the phenomenology of religion.
- 1.2. Religious Doctrine and its current context
 - 1.2.1. The secularization of modern society: theory and criticism
 - 1.2.2. The 're-enchantment of the world': new forms of religion
 - 1.2.3. Religious fundamentalism and the cult phenomenon

2. Plurality of Religion

2.1. The diversity of religions. General typology. Ancient religious mentality. Primitive religiosity

2.2. Buddhism

2.2.1. Siddhartha Gautama: The Buddha

2.2.2. Four Noble Truths. Enlightenment

2.2.3. Features of Buddhism: lifestyle, meditation, different types of Buddhism

2.3. Islam

2.3.1. Muhammad

2.3.2. Koranic religion

2.3.3. Society and anthropology

2.4. Hinduism

2.4.1. Historical Evolution: from Pre-Vedic and Vedic India to contemporary Hinduism

2.4.2. Hindu Worldview: the notion of Karma, structuring of society, the problem of evil

2.5. Judaism

2.5.1. Most important historical moments

2.5.2. Types of Judaism and their meaning

2.5.3. Jewish Worldview

3. Christianity

3.1. Introduction to Sacred Scripture

3.1.1. Scripture as a textual record of salvation history

3.1.2. The concept of revelation

3.1.3. The biblical canon

3.1.4. Literary genres

3.1.5. Bible interpretation

3.2. Jesus Christ

3.2.1. Jesus Christ, the central hierophany of Christianity

3.2.2. Historical research on Jesus

3.2.3. The historical Jesus and the Christ of faith

3.2.4. Jesus' message: the Kingdom of God, parables and miracles

3.2.5. The death and resurrection of Jesus.

3.3. Open questions: Ecumenism, liturgy, women in the church and authority in the church community

Textbooks & Web Resources

- Evelyn Underhill, *Mysticism* (Oneworld Oxford)
- Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing* (Doubleday)
- William James, *The varieties of Religious Experience* (Penguin)
- Richard Lennan, *An introduction to catholic theology* (Paulist Press)
- Karen Armstrong, *The great Transformation* (Anchor books)
- Karen Armstrong, *A history of God* (Anchor books)
- Nobert Bella, *Habits of the heart* (Univ of Calif Press)
- Chapter of Religion (pages 219-250)
- Peter Berger, *A rumor of angels* (Doubleday Anchor Book)
- www.vatican.va (Catholic documents, news, events, press releases)
- www.religion-online.org (religion news and links)

Grading

The following conditions must be accomplished to pass the course:

- A minimum overall grade of at least 5 over 10.
- A minimum grade in the final exam of 5 over 10.

The overall grade is obtained as follows:

I recognize that each of you have individual learning styles. I have selected a range of means to assess your engagement with and comprehension of the material we have covered. These criteria are:

1. Class participation (including on-time attendance, preparation, and written responses to readings) - 20%
2. Quizzes (2) - 20%
3. Papers (1 each, interpretive and historical) - 20%
4. Final Exam - 40%

In case the student does not pass the course by the indicated way, he/she will have the option to submit a final work that will include the great majority of the content of the subject which will be marked and assigned as an extraordinary retake.