

COURSE DETAIL

INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Utrecht University - University College Utrecht

Program(s)

University College Utrecht

UCEAP Course Level

Lower Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Religious Studies

UCEAP Course Number

10

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

UCEAP Transcript Title

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

As an introduction to the academic study of religion, this course examines topics, theories, and methods that are essential to gain an understanding of religion as an important aspect of human culture and history. The course proceeds along two lines. First, students are introduced to influential approaches to defining and investigating religion (e.g. Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, Clifford Geertz, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Ninian Smart). Next, theoretic approaches study parts of specific religious traditions, especially Christianity and Islam, but also Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and native (African) religions. Topics discussed include perspectives on transcendence and immanence, war and peace, reconciliation and retaliation, social difference, holy texts, and the challenge of modernity. Since the academic study of religion comprises various disciplinary approaches (e.g. historical, cultural anthropological, philosophical, and literary approaches), the course is also an exercise in interdisciplinarity, both theoretical (studying the respective academic literature) and practical (investigating religious phenomena, using methods from various academic disciplines). After completing this course students are able to understand the complexity of identifying and analyzing religious phenomena; understand the context of defining “religion”; compare religious traditions from a historical perspective; reflect on current issues related to the impact of religion on social affairs; and work comparatively with different perspectives on, and interpretations of, religion and religious phenomena.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

UCHUMREL12

Host Institution Course Title

INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Host Institution Campus

Humanities

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Religious Studies

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