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 introduces approaches to defining and investigating religion (e.g. Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, Clifford Geertz, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Ninian Smart) and theoretic approaches are used to study parts of specific religious traditions, for example Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Topics that are discussed include perspectives on gender and social difference, religious rituals, holy texts and the challenge of modernities and technologization, religion in the context of conflict, humanitarian and ecological crisis. Since the academic study of religion comprises various disciplinary approaches (e.g. historical, cultural anthropological, sociological, philosophical, literary approaches), the course is also an exercise in interdisciplinarity, both theoretical – studying the respective academic literature – and practical – actually investigating religious phenomena, using of methods from various academic disciplines.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
UCHUMREL12

Host Institution Course Title
INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Host Institution Course Details
https://cursusplanner.uu.nl/Curriculum

Host Institution Campus
University College Utrecht

Host Institution Faculty
Humanities

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Religious Studies
Course Last Reviewed 2026-2027

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