

# 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 Course Details

## Host Institution Campus

Humanities

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**

Religious Studies

**Course Last Reviewed**

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