

COURSE DETAIL

PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

Country

New Zealand

Host Institution

University of Otago

Program(s)

University of Otago

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Religious Studies Psychology

UCEAP Course Number

137

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

UCEAP Transcript Title

PSYCH OF RELIGION

UCEAP Quarter Units

7.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.70

Course Description

The course introduces the psychology of religion, focusing on insights from contemporary cognitive and evolutionary psychology into human religious belief and behavior. It explores questions such as: Can science explain religious belief? What do cognitive and evolutionary theories reveal about belief in God? Is religion universal or a product of human evolution? How does religious belief develop in childhood? What social functions does religion serve? The course combines research from psychology and religious studies to examine topics including the psychology of atheism, terrorism, and the effects of religion on prejudice and tolerance.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

RELS237

Host Institution Course Title

PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/papers?papercode=RELS237>

Host Institution Campus

Dunedin

Host Institution Faculty

Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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