Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations

Course Structure for
M. Phil. in Comparative Religion
(Applicable for the Academic Session 2010-2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper No.</th>
<th>Name of the Paper</th>
<th>Max. Marks (100)</th>
<th>Passing Marks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>End Semester</td>
<td>Mid Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester – I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper-I/I(A)</td>
<td>Papers to be assigned as per table-1</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>Paper-II/II(A)</td>
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<td>Paper-III</td>
<td>Research Methodology (Part-A)</td>
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<td>Semester – II</td>
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<td>Paper-VII</td>
<td>Research Methodology (Part-B)</td>
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<td>Semester – III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper-IX</td>
<td>Presentation of final dissertation synopsis and explanatory bibliography</td>
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<td>Paper-X/X(A)</td>
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<td>Total Marks for Semester-III</td>
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<td>Semester – IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper-XI</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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<td>Paper-XII</td>
<td>Viva-Voce</td>
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### Table-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students who have not done M.A. in Comparative Religions</th>
<th>Students who have done M.A. in Comparative Religions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper-I</td>
<td>Paper-I(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism) (Part-A)</td>
<td>World Religions &amp; Modernity (Part-A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper-II</td>
<td>Paper-II(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semitic Religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) (Part-A)</td>
<td>World Religions and Visual Arts (Part-A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper-V</td>
<td>Paper-V(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism) (Part-B)</td>
<td>World Religions &amp; Modernity (Part-B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper-VI</td>
<td>Paper-VI(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semitic Religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) (Part-B)</td>
<td>World Religions and Visual Arts (Part-B)</td>
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### Table-2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students who are assigned to Sanskrit Group</th>
<th>Students who are assigned to Arabic Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper-IV (Part-A)</td>
<td>Paper-IV (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper-VIII (Part-B)</td>
<td>Paper-VIII (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper-X (Part-C)</td>
<td>Paper-X (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper-XIII (Part-D)</td>
<td>Paper-XIII (A)</td>
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</table>
M. Phil. in Comparative Religions

Semester – I

Paper I: Indian Religions

Unit 1: Hinduism

• Introduction: Defining Hinduism & its general features.
• Ancient origins and forms: proto-historic, vedic, upanishadic, puranic.
• Dharma: notion and meaning.
• Ascetic tradition within Hinduism.
• Differing traditions: epic, vaishnavism, saivism, tantric and sakta.

Unit 2: Jainism

• Historical background: foundations and rise.
• Jaina Canon & literature.
• The Tirthankara tradition & Jaina cosmology.
• Sectarian divergences: Digambara and Svetambara traditions.
• The seven tattvas, ahimsa, and the mechanism of bondage (karma)
• Asceticism in the Jaina tradition.

Suggested References for Paper I – Indian Religions:

Hinduism
-G.D Sontheimer & H. Kulke (Eds.), Hinduism Reconsidered, Manohar, New Delhi.

**Jainism**

**Paper II: Semitic Religions**

**Unit 1 – Judaism**
Jewish Religion as Mirror in Old Testament – The Special Meaning of History for Judaism.- Jewish People in Diaspora – Jewish Mysticism

**Unit 2 – Christianity**
Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ – The development of Christian Church – The main splits in the Christian Church – The Spread of Christianity and Colonialism in Christian Church.
Books Recommended for Judaism

(Books in bold are available at central library, Jamia Millia Islamia)

Robert H. Pfeiffer  Introduction to the Old Testament
John Bright  History of Israel
Otto J. Baab  The Theology of the old Testament
John Skinner  Prophecy and Religion
Arthur Hertzberg  Judaism

Levin, Ephraime.  Judaism
Rabinowicz, Oskar. K. Arnold Toynbee on Judaism and Zionism
Renckens, Henry.  The Religion of Israel
Wouk, Herman.  This is my God: The Jewish Way of Life
Bentwich, N.  Israel
Kohler, Kaufmann.  Jewish Theology
Moore, G.F.  Judaism in the First Centuries of the Christian Era

- Robert H. Pfeiffer  Introduction to the Old Testament
- John Bright  History of Israel
- Otto J. Baab  The Theology of the old Testament
- John Skinner  Prophecy and Religion
- Arthur Hertzberg  Judaism
- Dan Cohn-Sherbok  Judaism: History, Belief and Practice, Routledge, London
- Daniel H Frank, et.al.  The Jewish Philosophy Reader.
- Keith W. Whitelam  The Invention of Ancient Israel.
- Martin Gilbert  The Routledge Atlas of Jewish History,

Books Recommended for Christianity

Punjabi University, Patiala  Christianity
Goddess MacGregor  The Bible in the Making
John Foster  The first Advance Church History AD 29-500
Sigfried Eathorn  The Christian Doctrines of Salvation
Peter May  The Doctrine of Trinity
Unit 1 – A brief history of the development of Modernity in Europe and America

- A political, social, economic and religious survey of the Medieval European Society
- The Age of Discovery
- The Renaissance
- The Reformation and Counter Reformation
- The Age of Reason
- The Enlightenment
- The Romantic era
- The Industrial Revolution
- The Modern era
- The Postmodern era
- The Globalization of Modern Western Civilization

Some of the important events, aspects and movements during the above mentioned period:

- This worldly emphasis and secularization of society
- Individualism and Humanism
- The role of philosophers, scientists and thinkers
- The American Revolution
- The French Revolution
- The Revolutions of 1848
- The Russian Revolution
- The First World War and the Second World War
- Feminism and movement for Gender Equality
- Movements against Social Exclusion, Apartheid and Racial Discrimination

Unit 2 – The major areas of confrontation between Religious Traditions and the contemporary culture of Modernity

- Spirituality versus Materialism – The Holy versus mundane, individualism versus collectivism – democracy versus authoritarianism, logical versus emotional, reason versus intuitive and direct experience (as the source of supreme knowledge), selfseeking verses self sacrifice, hierarchization versus equality, faith based groupism verses nationalism, Feminism, Gender Equality, Racial Discrimination, Pluralistic Society and the Question of Meaning in Life.
Paper II-A, (M. Phil.) World Religions and the Visual Arts
(Alternative for those who have M.A in Comparative Religion)

Unit 1 – Introduction to Religious Art

(a) The Language of Art and the written word; Sacred and Secular Art; Representation Modes: painting, sculpture, architecture and calligraphy; Meaning Systems: Symbol, Imagery and Religious Semantics.

(b) Philosophical basis of Oriental and Western Art

Unit 2 – Art in Primal Religions

(a) Paleo Art (forms and themes); the significance of artistic data and material culture in reconstructing religious and cultural history.

(b) Religious Imagery in the Art of Primal Cultures. Case Studies - Indian Tribal Cultures, African Art and Australian Aboriginal Art.

Unit 3 – Religious Art in Buddhism and Jainism

(a) Early Buddhist sites (Sarnath, Bharuat, Sanchi and Amravati); the emergence and development of Buddha Image. The Narrative Tradition in Buddhist art - in Ajanta caves and later Buddhist Tradition. The Mandala in Mahayana Buddhism. Buddhist art in South East Asia.

(b) The Image and Symbolism of Jaina Tirthankaras; Jains Temples, Jaina Painting and Pata Citras, Tantric Jaina Mandalas and the Siddha Cakra.

Unit 4 – Religious Art in Hindu Tradition

(a) The beginnings of Theistic Art (Indus Valley Civilization, Maurya, Kushan and Gandhara)

(b) Early and later medieval sculpture and Temple Architecture. Symbolism of the Hindu Temple

(c) Hindu Iconography (Vaishnava, Shaiva and Shakta)

(d) Religious Themes in Miniature Paintings

(e) The rise of Aniconicism in Hindu Tantric Traditions

Paper III: Research Methodology

This course is designed to familiarize students with the wide variety of approaches and methods to the study of religion, and to introduce them to the past and current debates over the key issues in the discipline. By the end of the course, it is hoped that students...
will be able to frame their research questions and locate them in the wider debates. The emphasis will be on empirical and qualitative methods in the study of religion. The course will proceed by reviewing major ethnographic works on religion conducted from a variety of perspectives.

**Unit 1 – Classical Approaches to the study of Religion**
1) Tracing the history of Religious Studies
2) Sociological Approaches: Marx, Weber, Durkheim
3) Phenomenological Approaches: Eliade, Rudolf Otto, Kritstenson

**Unit 2 – New Trends**
1) Writings of Clifford Geertz, Talal Asad, Feminist approaches, Subaltern Approaches
2) Colonialism, Ideology and the study of Religion: Richard King, Russell McCutcheon, Timothy Fitzgerald

**One of the classical languages (Arabic /Sanskrit)**

**Paper IV – Sanskrit Language (Part A)**

The Introductory course on Sanskrit Language is oriented towards achieving mastery over three skills-listening and speaking, reading and writing. The objective of the course is to make the student capable of achieving proficiently in accessing Sanskrit text in the original.

**Course Contents**

**Unit 1 – Sanskrit Conversation**

**Unit 2 – Basic Sanskrit Grammar (Sandhis, Verb formations, Conjugations Indecnilables, Compounds and simple Sanskrit exercise)**

**One of the classical languages (Arabic /Sanskrit)**

**Paper IV (A) – Arabic Language (Part A)**

**Unit 1 – Arabic Alphabets, Vowels, Vocabulary, Gender, Cases, Subject and Predicate, Prepositions and the Personal Pronouns.**

**Unit 2 – Basic Arabic Grammar (the construct State, the Noun Qualified, Adjective, Dual, Plural, Past Tense, Present Tense, Imperative Verb, Negative Imperative Verb)**
Paper V: Indian Religions

Unit 1 – Buddhism
• Historical background: material and cultural milieu.
• Biographical tradition of the Buddha: divergence and exclusivity.
• Fundamental Doctrines: Four-Noble Truths, Eight-Fold Path, Chain of Dependent Origination, karma, nirvāṇa, śīla (ethics).
• Mahāyāna: emergence and its basic philosophies (pāramita, śunyata, bodhisattva).

Unit 2 – Sikhism
• Introduction background: the foundation of the Sikh tradition & the formation of Guru Granth Sahib.
• Historical development & fundamental belief system.
• Transformation: Khalsa & Guru Gobind.
• Social & religious reforms: Singh Sabhas.
• The Akali Sikhs and the question of Sikh identity.

Suggested References for Paper I – Indian Religions:

Buddhism
Paper VI: Semitic Religions

Unit 1 – Islam

The Life of Prophet Muhammad and the Basic Teachings of Qur’an –
The Development of Islamic Empire and the Rise of New Civilization –
The Contribution of Islam to Fine Arts – The Sufi Tradition
Unit 2 – Semitic Religions  The Challenges of Modernity

Books Recommended for Islam:
Ameer Ali *The Spirit of Islam*
Khwaja Kemaluddin *The Ideal Prophet*
Mohammed Manzoor Numani *What Islam Is*
Philip K. Hitti *History of the Arabs*
Punjabi University *Islam*
Falur Rahman *Islam*
Hossoin Nasr *Ideals and Realities of Islam*
Mujeeb *The Indian Muslims*
W.C. Smith *Islam in Modern History*
Majid Ali Khan *Pious Caliphs*
Mir Valliuddin *The Quranic Sufism*
K.A. Nizami *Some Aspects of Religion and Politics in India (in 13th Century)*
Bishop John A Subhan *Sufism-Its Saints and Shrines*
H.A. Nicholson *The Mystics of Islam*
R.C. Bhatnagar *Dimensions of Classical Sufi Thought*
A.J. Arberry *Sufism- An Account of the Mystics of Islam*

Paper V-A, (M. Phil.) “Contemporary Challenges and Religious Traditions” (Alternative for those who have M.A in Comparative Religion)

Unit 1 – The Varied responses of the process of Modernization by the Religious Traditions

• Four obvious effects of the process of Modernization seem to have taken place in the traditional Western societies and can be expected to manifest on a world level with the process of globalization becoming universal. These are:
  • A- Decline,
  • B- Adaptation and reinterpretation,
  • C- Conservative reaction,
  • D- Innovation,

Select Bibliography:
(The books at the S.Numbers. 21-26 are available at Zakir Husain Libery JMI)


3. Modern Europe: Sources and Perspectives from History (Paperback) by John C. Swanson (Author), Michael S. Melancon (Author). Paperback: 528 pages Publisher: Longman (June 1, 2002)

4. The History of Europe (Hardcover) by J. M. Roberts (Author). Hardcover: 628 pages Publisher: Viking Adult (December 1, 1997)


8. The Discovery of France: A Historical Geography, from the Revolution to the First World War (Hardcover) by Graham Robb (Author). Hardcover: 352 pages Publisher: W. W. Norton (October 29, 2007)


21- History of Europe 2 volumes Carlton J H Hayes and Marshall Whithed Baldwin

22-Rise of the Modern West Meenaxi Phukan

23- European Society 1500-1700 Henry Kamen

24- The Birth of Modern World 1780-1914 C. A. Bayly

25- Origins of Modern Europe Q. Z. Hasan and Hajira Kumar (ed.)

26- The Reformation-Revival or Revolution W. Stanford Reid (ed.)

Paper VI-A, (M. Phil.) World Religions and the Visual Arts
(Alternative for those who have M.A in Comparative Religion)

Unit 1 – Religious Art in Islamic Cultures

Early Symbols; Islamic Calligraphy and the Qur’an; Symbolism of the Mosque and its latent geometry; Islamic architecture across cultures (India, Turkey, Iran).

Unit 2 – Religious Art in Christian Traditions

Early Symbols; the images of Christ. The Bible and its representations in Sculpture, Architecture, and Painting (Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance and Neo-Classicism); Icon and Iconoclasts; the symbolism of the Church and the dome.
Unit 3 – Critical Issues in Art and Religion:

I – The Religious Icon in Non-idolatrous religious traditions
(a) Islamic Popular Art; (b) Imagery and Ritual in Jaina Tradition; and
(c) Sikh representation in Popular Poster Art


Review and Critical Readings:


Recommended Reading

Wurm, Helen M. Groger, Australian bark paintings and their mythological interpretation, Canaberra : Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, 1973
Williams, Denis. Icon and Image – A study of Sacred and Secular Forms of African
**Classical Art:** London: Allen Lane, 1974.
Banerjee, Jitendra N. *The Development of Hindu Iconography*. Calcutta: The University, 1941, (IGNCA 704.9 BAN)

**For Review & Critical Readings**


**Web Sites:**
www.ignca.nic.in, www.originsnet.org, www.metmuseum.org,
www.religion.online.org, www.dartmouth.edu (math5.pattern/lesson 5),
www.viswakala.org, www.sikhfoundation.org
Paper VII: Research Methodology

Unit 1 – Critical Issues
1) The issue of Reductionism
2) Reading the Text: Hermeneutics
3) Emic vs Etic View

Unit 2 – Tools and Techniques of research
Qualitative and Quantitative techniques:
1) How to select a sample, prepare interview schedule and questionnaire
2) Fieldwork: Participant observation and ethical questions in ethnography
3) How to use archival sources
4) Descriptive and Analytical constructs
5) Text historical methods
6) Writing a research proposal and dissertation

Readings:
- Asad, Talal. Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons in Christianity and Islam
- Banton, M. Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Religion
- Castelli, E.A. Ed. Women, Gender and Religion: A Reader
- Durkheim, Emile. Elementary Forms of Religious Life
- Eliade, Mircea. Patterns in Comparative Religion
- Flood, Gavin, Beyond Phenomenology
- Geertz, Clifford. The Interpretation of Cultures
- Graham, William A. Beyond the Written Word: Oral Aspects of Scripture in the History of Religion
- Kritstenson. Meaning in Religion
- Marx, Karl, The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1838.
- Marx, Karl, German Ideology
- Oberoi, Harjot. Construction of Religious Boundaries: Culture, Identity and Diversity in the Sikh Religion (OUP)
- Obeysekere, G. Medusa’s Hair
- Otto, Rudolf. The Idea of the Holy
- Smith, W.C. The Meaning and End of Religion
- Trinkhaus, C and H.A. Oberman Ed. *The Pursuit of Holiness in the Late Medieval and Renaissance Religion*
- Waardenburg, Jacques. *Classical Approaches to the Study of Religion: Aims, Methods and Theories*
- Weber, Max. *The Religion of India*
- Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

(Relevant portions from the above books will be utilized)

**Paper VIII – Sanskrit Language (Part B)**

**Unit 1** – Reading from Sanskrit Texts. (Selections from beginner’s texts such as *Hitopadesha* and *Panchatantra*)

**Unit 2** – Translation and Compositation

**Recommended Readings**


**Paper VIII (A) – Arabic Language (Part B)**

**Unit 1** – Reading the text from the book “Al-Qiraatul Wadiha Part-I by Wahiduz Zaman Keranwi from the chapter I to V.

**Unit 2** – The Miscellany: Important Grammatical Terms

**Recommended Books:**

1. Mualimul Insha (Part-I) by Abdul Majid Nadvi
2. Al-Lughato Al-Arabiato lil Mubtadeen by Sayyed Ali, Madras
3. The Essential Arabic by Rafi el –Imad Faynan
4. Teach Yourself Arabic by Zubair Ahmed Farooqi and Habibullah Khan
5. Al-Lughato Al-Arabiato le Ghairin Nateqeen beha (part I) by Fa Abdur Raheem
Semester – III

Paper X – Sanskrit Language (Part C)

Course on Sanskrit Language
The Advanced course on Sanskrit Language is oriented towards achieving mastery over three skills-listening and speaking, reading and writing. The objective of the course is to make the student capable of achieving proficiency in accessing Sanskrit text in the original.

Course Contents

Unit 1 – Sanskrit Conversation

Unit 2 – Sanskrit Grammar (Verb formations, Conjugations, Compounds and irregular forms)

Paper X (A) – Arabic Language (Part C)

Translation:

Unit 1 – Simple Sentences from Arabic into English

Unit 2 – Simple Sentences from English into Arabic
Semester – IV

Paper XI – Dissertation

Paper XII – Viva – Voce

Paper XIII – Sanskrit Language (Part D)

Course Contents

Unit 1 – Reading from Sanskrit Texts. (Selections from *Upanishads*, *Bhagavadgita*, *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, hymns and ritual passages from Sanskrit literature)

Unit 2 – Translation and Composition

Recommended Readings


Paper XIII (A) – Arabic Language (Part D)

Unit 1 – Reading the text from the book “Al-Qiraatul Wadiha Part-II by Wahiduz Zaman Keranwi from the chapter I to 10.

Unit 2 – Conversation and Comprehension

Recommended Books:

1. Mualimul Insha (Part-I & II) by Abdul Majid Nadvi
2. Al-Lughato Al-Arabiato lil Muftadeen by Sayyed Ali, Madras
3. The Essential Arabic by Rafi el –Imad Faynan
4. Teach Yourself Arabic by Zubair Ahmed Farooqi and Habibullah Khan
5. Teach Yourself Arabic by S. A. Rahman
6. Al-Lughato Al-Arabiato le Ghairin Nateqeen beha (part I & II) by Fa Abdur Raheem