



**Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations**  
**M.A. in Comparative Religion (w.e.f. the Academic Session 2018-2019)**

**SYLLABUS AND PAPER PROFILES**

The Centre offers a four-semester Master of Arts (M.A.) in Comparative Religion. The foundational course offers a comprehensive understanding of doctrines and practices of major faith traditions of the world. The M.A. Programme aims to introduce students to major world religions to develop a critical understanding of their primary scriptures, basic belief and practices, and the historical conditions for the origins and growth of these religions. It focuses on the nature of religious experience, traditional and modern theories, approaches and methodology of study of religion and the use of comparative method and interdisciplinary approach. The role of religious symbolism, myth, ritualism, animism, and totemism are some of the other areas taught. The Programme focuses both on the textual traditions and contemporary anthropological works.

The Centre shall aim to encourage enrolment of students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines which would be entirely in keeping with the Centre's avowed stand to engage with multi and interdisciplinary approach to the study of religions and civilizations.

The M.A. Programme in Comparative Religion shall consist of 08 (Eight) papers, inclusive of a Dissertation, and shall spread be over four-semesters. These papers shall be of total 100 marks each with separate marks allocated for End-Semester Examinations and Assignments. There shall be two Assignments for each taught course, consisting of a total of 25 marks.

The detailed profile and syllabus for each paper/course is provided as following.

**Semester – I**

**PAPER – I**

**NATURE AND SCOPE OF RELIGION & METHODOLOGIES TO STUDY**

The paper examines the nature of Religious Experience through traditional and modern theories, with special reference to the works and ideas of Rudolf Otto and William James as well as the thought in Indian and Semitic Religions. It traces the evolution of religious tradition and its opposition to the Secular and the division between Reason and Revelation. It introduces students to a range of critical, contradictory and complementary paradigms in the study of religions: The Evolutionists Approaches; Anthropological and Sociological Approaches; Reductive and Functionalist Approaches. Experiential Approaches: Phenomenological; Approaches to Mysticism; Psychoanalytical Approaches. Symbolic Approaches among others.

**UNIT – 1**

The Nature of Religious Experience – Traditional and Modern Theories (with special reference to Rudolf Otto, William James, Indian and Semitic Religions).  
The Two Aspects of Religious Life, Individual and Social, Essence and Manifestation, The Evolution of a Religious Tradition

**UNIT – 2**

Religious verses Secular (Sacred and the Profane), Reason and Revelation, The Nature of Symbol, Myth, Theophany and Ritual in Religion.  
Modern Challenges to Religious Traditions, The Inter-Faith Dialogue, Unity and Diversity in Religious Traditions.

**UNIT – 3**

A snapshot survey of World Religions; antiquity, diversity and geographical locations; Opening Questions related to the study of World Religions; critical methods; ambivalent, contradictory and complementary paradigms.  
The Origin of Religion/ The Evolutionists Approaches; Anthropological and Sociological Approaches; Reductive and Functionalist Approaches.

**UNIT – 4**

Experiential Approaches: Phenomenological; Approaches to Mysticism; Psychoanalytical Approaches.  
Symbolic Approaches; Exegetical and Hermeneutical Approaches.  
Feminism and Religion; Inter-faith dialogue and Reconciliatory Approaches.

### Suggested Readings:

- A.J. Arberry. *Revelation and Reason in Islam*
  - Alban G. Widgery. *What is Religion?*
  - Alistair M. Macleod. *Paul Tillich - An Essay on the Role of ontology in his philosophical Theology*
  - Anthony C. Thisalton. *The Two Horizons*
  - Douglas Allen. *Structure and Creativity in Religion*
  - Eric J. Sharpe. *Comparative Religion- A History*
  - Frederick J. Steng. *Emptiness A Study in Religious Meaning*
  - G. Van Den Leeuv. *Religion in Essence and Manifestation*
  - H.G. Gadamer. *Philosophical Hermeneutics*
  - Jan De Vries. *The Study of Religion: A Historical Approach*
  - Joachim Wach. *Sociology of Religion*
  - Joachim Wach. *Types of Religious Experience*
  - Joachim Wach. *Comparative Study of Religion*
  - John B. Carman. *The Meaning of Religion*
  - Joseph M. Kitagawa (Ed.) *History of Religions: Essays on the Problem of Understanding*
  - Joseph M. Kitagawa. *History of Religions: Essays in Methodology*
  - K.S. Murty. *Reason and Revelation in Advaita*
  - M. Eliade. *Patterns in Comparative Religion*
  - M. Eliade. *Sacred and Profane*
  - M. Weber. *Sociology of Religion*
  - Mircea Eliade. *Patterns in Comparative Religion*
  - Ninian Smart. *The Religious Experience of Mankind*
  - Paul Ricoeur. *Interpretation Theory*
  - Paul Tillich. *Dynamics of Faith*
  - Paul Tillich. *Systematic Theology (Introduction), Vol. I*
  - R. Marle. *Introduction to Hermeneutics*
  - R.E. Palmer. *Hermeneutics-Interpretation Theory in Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger and Gadamer*
  - Roy J. Howard. *Three Faces of Hermeneutics*
  - Rudolf Bultmann. *Essays: Philosophical and Theological*
  - Rudolf Otto. *The Idea of the Holy*
  - Stem T. Katz (ed.). *Mysticism and Philosophical Analysis*
  - Swami Satprakashananda. *Methods of knowledge*
  - Toynbee, Arnold J. *Historical Approach to Religion*
  - W.C. Smith. *The Meaning and End of Religion*
  - W.H. Zuurdeeg. *An Analytical Philosophy of Religion*
  - William James. *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (only two essays by Long and Bolo)
  - W. Kritstenson. *Meaning in Religion*
  - Y. Masih. *Comparative Religion*
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**PAPER – II & V**

**HINDUISM**

The course offers a critical historical survey on the genesis, development and persistence of Hinduism from pre-historic beginnings (C. 2500 BC) to the reform movements of the nineteenth century. The course covers a comprehensive selection of critical readings on categories such as Hindu/Hinduism, the origin of Hinduism as expounded in the Aryan debate; oriental perceptions of Hinduism; the inextricable relationship between Veda and Agama and the Desi and Margi cultures.

The special focus of the course is to offer a non-reductive interpretation based on interdisciplinary sources: its textual documentation in religious scriptures, oral transmission of religious concepts, visual and material cultural forms of religious expressions such as puja, pilgrimage and the living traditions in modern times.

As Hinduism is a principle matrix of Indic Civilization that interacted and influenced several forms of medieval sectarian religious traditions in India (namely Shaiva, Vaishnava and Shakta), the special focus of this course is to examine its development in context of conformity and dissent, contestation and convergence, between parallel religious streams. This method presupposes the investigation of culturally and philosophically shared cultural spaces and religious environments in which the classical Brahmanical Hinduism, changed, evolved or interacted with non-Hindu traditions or with radical currents within Hinduism in the process of its evolutionary history.

**Semester – I**

**HINDUISM : PAPER II (PART—A)**

**UNIT – 1**

Debates on constructing the category “Hinduism”, Pre-Vedic Religions, origin and antiquity of the Vedas; Vedic Texts (*Shruti and Smriti*), Vedic religion and ritual; an introduction to later Vedic scriptures (Brahmanas and Aranyakas).

**UNIT – 2**

The emergence and development of the Upanishads, fundamental concepts of Classical Hinduism: *Brahman-atman, karma, moksha, and samsara*; Upanishadic ontologies and their influence.

**UNIT – 3**

Epic literature: Mahabharata and Ramayana; the Bhagvadgita (commentaries and teachings), the early and late Puranas.

Classical Hindu Society; the *Dharmashastras*-corpus, classification and content; *Varnasharma*-Dharma (Caste and Life stage Law) and the Four Goals of life (*purusharthas*); Hindu life-cycle rituals (*samaskaras*).

**UNIT – 4**

Philosophical worldviews (*darshanas*) – Samkhya-yoga, Vedanta and Shaiva Metaphysics (Kashmir).

**Suggested Readings:**

- A.K. Majumdar . *Bhakti Renaissance*
  - Arthur Avalon. *Principles of Tantra, Part I, Introduction*
  - Arthur Avalon (Ed.). *Kularnava Tantra*
  - Farquhar . *Modern Religious Movements in India*
  - G. Parrinder. *Avatar and Incarnation*
  - J. Ganda. Aspects of Early Visnuism
  - J.A.B. Van Buitenen. *Ramarajya on the Bhagvadgita*
  - J.E. Carpenter. *Theism in Medieval India*
  - John Woodroffe. *Sakti and Sakta*
  - Nicol Macnyccl. *Indian Theism from the Vedic to the Mohammadan, Period, chaps, III & IX*
  - P.H. Prabhu. *Hindu Social Organization*
  - R.G. Bhandarkar. *Vaisnavism, Saivism and Minor Religious Systems*
  - T.M.F. Mahadevau. *Ten Saints of India*
  - The Ramakrishna Mission. *The Cultural Heritage of India, Vol. III & IV*
  - Theodore de Bary. *Sources of Indian Tradition, Chap. II*
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**PAPER – III & VI**

**BUDDHISM**

The course introduces the students to the beginnings of the academic discourse on Buddhism and the paths it has traversed, explores the material and socio-historical genesis of Buddhism, while providing acquaintance with the methodology of reading the Buddhist scriptures and its attendant problematic of recovering the original texts. It attempts to provide a sweeping survey of fundamental Buddhist ‘thoughts’ and doctrinal standpoints, and endeavours to develop an understanding of the processes behind the formation, sedentarization and domestication of the Buddhist *samgha*. Spanning the broad spectrum of sectarian developments within ‘classical’ Buddhism, the course explores their textures, offers critical analysis of such developments and charts the contours of Buddhism’s efflorescence, decline and revival in modern times; especially in contemporary India, under the rubric of Navayāna. The course structure follows a diachronic framework, broadly classified into the above themes.

**Semester – I**

**BUDDHISM : PAPER III (PART—A)**

**UNIT – 1**

**Introduction and Background**

- a) Curators of the Buddha: Discovery of Buddhism in the West: development of discourse on early Buddhism; Textualisation of Buddhist studies; Contribution of Indologists; Historiography of early Buddhism.
- b) Genesis of Early Buddhism: Socio-historical roots, material milieu of the rise of early Buddhism; and ideological setting; Buddhism as a protest movement?
- c) Reading the (Early Buddhist) *Pāli* Canon: Assessing the *Tiṭṭakā*: problems and perspectives; Development of the *Pāli* Canon: stages of compilation and writing down; Recovering the Buddha’s message: orality and *Buddhavacana* (“words of the Buddha”)
- d) Hagiography of the Buddha: Dating the ‘historical’ Buddha; Evolution of the Buddha legend: early biographies of the Gotama (the Buddha)- *Nidānakathā*, *Lalitavistara*, *Buddhacharita*; Modern scholarship on the legend (biography) of the Buddha.

**UNIT – 2**

**Buddhist Thoughts and Doctrines**

- a) Fundamental Buddhist Thoughts: The Four Noble Truths (*Ariyasaccāni*) and *Dukkha*; The Eight Fold Path (*Aṣṭamārga*), Dependent Origination (*Paṭiccasamuppāda*); philosophy of Non-self (*anattā/anātman*).
- b) *Nirvāna* and *Karma*: Concept and imagery of *nirvāna*; *Karma/kamma* and rebirth: Buddhist notion of *karma*, divergence with the Jaina and Brahmanical notions of *karma*: Typology, dynamism and working of *karma*.
- c) Buddhist Moral Ethics (*Sila*): Fundamental Buddhist ethics; nature of early Buddhist ethics; transgression and retribution.

### Suggested Readings:

- Bapat, P.V. (Ed.) 1959 *2500 Years of Buddhism*, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Delhi.
- Barua, Dipak Kumar. 2003. *An Analytical Study of Four Nikayas*, Reprint. Munshiram Manoharlal New Delhi.
- Bhattacharyya, N.N. 1993. *Buddhism in the History of Indian Ideas*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi,
- Charles S. Prebish (Ed.) 1995. *Buddhism: A Modern Perspective*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi,
- Conze, E. 1951. *Buddhism: Its Essence and Development*, Bruno Cassier, Oxford
- Dube, S.N. 1980. *Cross Currents in Early Buddhism*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi.
- Dutt, Nalinksha. 1941. *Early Monastic Buddhism* (Vol. I) Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi
- Dutt, S. 1962. *Buddhist Monks and Monasteries of India*, George Allen and Unwin, London.
- Gombrich, R.F. 1988. *Theravada Buddhism: A Social History from Ancient Benaras to Modern Colombo*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London & New York.
- Heitzman, J. 1980. *The Origin and Spread of Buddhist Monastic Institution in South Asia- 500 B.C-300 A.D.*, Deptt. of South Asia Regional Studies, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- Hirakawa, A. 1993. *A History of Indian Buddhism- from Sakyamuni to Early Mahayana*, (Trans. & ed. by Paul Groner) MLBD, Delhi, First published. Univ. of Hawaii Press, Hawaii, 1990, (Buddhist Tradition series, No. 19.).
- Holt, J. Clifford. 1981. *Discipline: The Canonical Buddhism of Vinayapitaka*, MLBD, Delhi.
- Jones, J. Garret. 1979. *Tales and Teachings of the Buddha: The Jataka Stories in Relation to the Pali Canon*, George Allen & Unwin, London.
- Law, B.C. 1932. *Geography of Early Buddhism*, London.
- Lopez, D.S. (Jr.) 1995. *Curators of the Buddha: The Study of Buddhism Under Colonialism*, The Univ of Chicago Press, Chicago & London.
- Lopez, Jr., Donald S. (Ed.) 1998. *Buddhism in Practice*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi,
- Mizuno, Kogen. (Tr.Gaynor Seikmori), *Essentials of Buddhism: Basic Terminology and Concepts of Buddhist Philosophy*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi.
- Nakamura, H. 1966. "The Fundamental Standing of Early Buddhist Ethics." *Acta Asiatic*, No. 11-18 (in English)
- Nakamura, Hajime. 1999. *Buddhism in Comparative Light*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi,
- Obeyesekere, G., Frank Reynolds, & B.L. Smith (eds.) 1972. *The Two Wheels of Dhamma: Essays on the Theravada Tradition on India and Ceylon*, American Academy of Religion, Chambersburg, Pa.
- Padmanabh, S. Jaini. . 2000. *Collected Papers on Buddhism*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi.
- Prebish, S, C.1996. "Ambiguity and Conflict in the Study of Buddhist Ethics: An Introduction." in *Journal of Religious Ethics*, vol. 24. No.2.
- Ratnapala, N.1993. *Buddhist Sociology*. (Bibliotheca-Indo-Buddhica Series, No. 117), Sri Satguru Pub., Delhi.
- Reat, Noble Ross, *Buddhism: A History*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, 1994.
- Spiro, M. E.1970. *Buddhism and Society: A Great Tradition and its Burmese Vicissitudes*, Harper and Row, New York, (George Allen & Unwin, London, 1971).
- Tambiah, S.J. 1976. *World Conqueror And World Renouncer: A Study of Buddhism and Polity in Thailand Against a Historical Background*, CUP, Cambridge.
- Thomas, Edward J. 1997. *The History of Buddhist Thought*, Reprint. (First Published in 1933, Rea)
- Upreti, G.B. 1997. *The Early Buddhist World Outlook in Historical Perspective*, Manohar, Delhi.
- Varma, V P. 1973. *Early Buddhism and Its Origin*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi.
- Warder, A. 2004. *Indian Buddhism Reprint*. New Delhi

**PAPER – IV & VII**

**JAINISM**

The paper starts with providing a historical background to the rise of this heterodox tradition, outlining its divergences as well as similarities with Brahminical tradition. It deals with doctrines and ethics, focusing especially on salvation and ahimsa. But it also goes beyond doctrinal issues central to Jainism to initiate a discussion and understanding of contemporary concerns around the scholarly study of the religious tradition. Some of these key issues are debates around gender; the contradiction between the apparent focus on asceticism in Jainism and its rootedness in a community that simultaneously celebrates wealth (a contradiction that has often been described as “riches and renunciation”); the ritual culture, and its relationship with neighbouring religious traditions.

The attempt has been to sensitize students to the fact that religions are not static entities, frozen forever in sacred books, but rather how they evolve and change over time.

**Semester – I**

**JAINISM : PAPER IV (PART—A)**

**UNIT – 1**

**Introduction and Background**

- a) The development of Jain Studies and the West: the delayed arrival of Jainism as a legitimate concern for Indological study; its philological bent; the contribution of Jacobi etc. Sramanic Religions and Jainism.
- b) The Jain conception of time: *avasarpini* and *utsarpini*. The Tradition of Tirthankaras - from Rsaba to Mahavira.
  - The Life of Mahavira
  - Parsva and Mahavira (Kesi-Gautam *samvad* and the differences between Law of Four restraints and *pancha mahavratas*) The lineage of elders after Mahavira: From Jambu to Bhadrabahu.
  - Jaina Councils and the Spread of Jainism: Origin and Development of Jain Sangha (incl. Royal patronage and the geographic expansion)
- c) The theory of Karma and bondage (*tatvagnan*/ Jain conception of universe and *gati*). The Schism between Svetambar and Digambar: major points of conflict

**UNIT – 2**

**Scripture and Practice**

- a) Jain Scriptures, literary Traditions: Jain Canonical Literature (The Svetambar and Digambar Tradition).  
Narrative Literature: Jain Puranas and Story traditions  
Srvakcara literature on lay discipline (Hemcandra's *Yogasastra*)
- b) Philosophy: the nature of reality/ differences with the fatalist and theistic schools and the concept of Syadvad
- c) Jain Religious Practices, Asceticism and Devotion: Vratas and restraints/ temple worship/ pilgrimages and other rituals (*avasyaka* and *pratikeraman* etc)



### Suggested Readings:

- C. Caillat. *Atonements in the Ancient Ritual of the Jaina Monks*.
  - H.V.Glasenapp. *Jainism: An Indian Religion of Salvation*. Delhi:
  - Herman Jacobi (ed.) *Sacred Books of the East*, Vol. 22, Herman Jacobi
  - James Laidlaw. *Riches and Renunciation: Religion, Economy and Society among the Jains*. See relevant Chapters
  - James Laidlaw. *Riches and renunciation: religion, economy, and society among the Jains*.
  - John E. Cort. "The Svetambar Murtipujak Jain Mendicant" in *Man* (N.S.) 26, 1991, p. 657-8.
  - John E. Cort. *Jains in the world: religious values and ideology in India*.
  - K. K. Dixit. *Early Jainism*.
  - L. A. Babb. *Ascetics and kings in a Jain ritual culture*. New Delhi, 1998.
  - Lawrence Babb "Monks and Miracles"
  - Michael Carrithers. "Jainism and Buddhism as Enduring Historical Streams" in *Journal of Anthropological Society of Oxford*, Vol. 21. No. 2, 1990.
  - P.S. Jaini . "The Jains and the Western Scholar", in P.S. Jaini, *Collected Papers on Jaina Studies*
  - P.S. Jaini. "Jaina Puranas: A Puranic Counter Tradition" in Wendy Doniger (ed.) *Purana Perennis: Reciprocity and Transformation in Hindu and Jaina Texts*, pp. 207-249
  - P.S. Jaini. *The Jaina Path of Purification*
  - Paul Dundas .*The Jains* by, See Relevant Chapters
  - Paul Dundas. "Food and Freedom: The Jaina Sectarian Debate on the Nature of Kevalin" in N.K. Singhi (ed.) *Ideal, Ideology and Practice: Studies in Jainism*
  - R. Robinson and S. Clarke (ed). *Religious Conversion in India: Modes, Motivations, and Meanings*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press 2003, (See, "Conversion to Jainism: Historical Perspectives" pp. 125 48).
  - R. Williams. *Jaina Yoga: A Survey of the Medieval S'ravakacaras*
  - R.K. Jain. *The Universe as Audience: Metaphor and Community among the Jains of North India* (see Chapters I and II).
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**Semester – II**

**HINDUISM : PAPER V (PART—B)**

**UNIT – 1**

The rise of Medieval Sectarianism, early Bhakti Tradition (North & South); nature and models of Bhakti (Vaishnava, Shaiva and Shakta). The Sants of Bhakti Tradition (Kabir and the Sant tradition); Dissenting Sectarian cults (Tantra).

**UNIT – 2**

Religious Expressions (*Puja, Vrata, Tirtha*); Manifestation of Hindu norms in Visual and Performative Arts (icon, temple, miniature painting, dance and drama).

**UNIT – 3**

“Oriental Perceptions” of Hinduism; Reform Movements in the Nineteenth Century; Ram Mohan Roy and the Brahmo Samaj; Dayananda Sarasvati and the Arya Samaj; Vivekananda and the 20<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance.

**UNIT – 4**

Contemporary discourse on Hinduism - Ecology, Human Rights and Feminism etc. Interactive Session on the theme - Which Hinduism is True?

**Suggested Readings:**

- A.K. Majumdar . *Bhakti Renaissance*
- Arthur Avalon. *Principles of Tantra, Part I, Introduction*
- Arthur Avalon (Ed.). *Kularnava Tantra*
- Farquhar . *Modern Religious Movements in India*
- G. Parrinder. *Avatar and Incarnation*
- J. Ganda. Aspects of Early Visnuism
- J.A.B. Van Buitenen. *Ramarajya on the Bhagvadgita*
- J.E. Carpenter. *Theism in Medieval India*
- John Woodroffe. *Sakti and Sakta*
- Nicol Macnyccl. *Indian Theism from the Vedic to the Mohammadan, Period, chaps, III & IX*
- P.H. Prabhu. *Hindu Social Organization*
- R.G. Bhandarkar. *Vaisnavism, Saivism and Minor Religious Systems*
- T.M.F. Mahadevau. *Ten Saints of India*
- The Ramakrishna Mission. *The Cultural Heritage of India, Vol. III & IV*
- Theodore de Bary. *Sources of Indian Tradition, Chap. II*

**Semester – II**

**BUDDHISM : PAPER VI (PART—B)**

**UNIT – 1**

**Emergence and Growth of the Sangha**

- a) Formation of the Buddhist Order (*Sangha*): Stages in development of the *Sangha*: from eremitical to cenobitical lifestyle; Sedentarization and domestication of the *Sangha*.
- b) Buddhist Monastic Codes: Pali *Vinayapitaka*: the development and formation of monastic codes; Monastic initiation; Features of Buddhist monasticism: disciplinary codes in the *Suttavibhanga* and *Khandhaka*; Collective ritual expressions of the *Sangha*: monastic rites ceremonies, viz., *pratimoksa*, *uposatha*, *pavârana*, *kathina*.

**UNIT – 2**

**Sectarian Developments: Mahayana, Tantric, Vajrayana Tibetan**

- a) Mahâyâna in India: Basic Mahâyâna Scriptures; Origins, growth, influences and nature of Mahâyâna in early India; Emergence of the stûpa cult and Mahâyâna.
- b) Mahâyâna Philosophy: *Prajnâpâramitâ*, *Shunyatâ*, and the development of the *bodhisattva* ideal; divergences with the mainstream (Theravada) Buddhist thought; Doctrine of the multiple bodies of the Buddha (*trikâya*).
- c) Tantric Buddhism: Appearance and setting; Tantric texts and their basic classification; Significant features of Tantric Buddhism in India; Transgressive elements in Tantric Buddhism
- d) Vajrayana-Tibetan Buddhism: Origins and influences; how distinctive was Vajrayana?; features and elements of practice.

**UNIT – 3**

**Efflorescence, Decline and Revival**

- a) Spread and Forms of Buddhism: South & Southeast Asia (Theravada), Tibetan Buddhism, Newar Buddhism (Nepal), Zen (Japan).
- b) Early Buddhist art: from aniconic to iconic; cave art; narrative art; sculptural art.
- c) Decline of Buddhism in India: external factors, internal weaknesses and contradictions
- d) Revival and Transformation of Buddhism: the case of Singhalese Theravada Buddhism; Emergence of Navayana in modern India; Neo-Buddhist movements in the West.

**Suggested Readings:**

- Bapat, P.V. (Ed.) 1959 *2500 Years of Buddhism*, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Delhi.
- Barua, Dipak Kumar. 2003. *An Analytical Study of Four Nikayas*, Reprint. Munshiram Manoharlal New Delhi.
- Bhattacharyya, N.N. 1993. *Buddhism in the History of Indian Ideas*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi,
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- Dube, S.N. 1980. *Cross Currents in Early Buddhism*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi.
  - Dutt, Nalinksha. 1941. *Early Monastic Buddhism* (Vol. I) Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi
  - Dutt, S. 1962. *Buddhist Monks and Monasteries of India*, George Allen and Unwin, London.
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  - Heitzman, J. 1980. *The Origin and Spread of Buddhist Monastic Institution in South Asia- 500 B.C-300 A.D.*, Deptt. of South Asia Regional Studies, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
  - Hirakawa, A. 1993. *A History of Indian Buddhism- from Sakyamuni to Early Mahayana*, (Trans. & ed. by Paul Groner) MLBD, Delhi, First published. Univ. of Hawaii Press, Hawaii, 1990, (Buddhist Tradition series, No. 19.).
  - Holt, J. Clifford. 1981. *Discipline: The Canonical Buddhism of Vinayapitaka*, MLBD, Delhi.
  - Jones, J. Garret. 1979. *Tales and Teachings of the Buddha: The Jataka Stories in Relation to the Pali Canon*, George Allen & Unwin, London.
  - Law, B.C. 1932. *Geography of Early Buddhism*, London.
  - Lopez, D.S. (Jr.) 1995. *Curators of the Buddha: The Study of Buddhism Under Colonialism*, The Univ of Chicago Press, Chicago & London.
  - Lopez, Jr., Donald S. (Ed.) 1998. *Buddhism in Practice*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi,
  - Mizuno, Kogen. (Tr.Gaynor Seikmori), *Essentials of Buddhism: Basic Terminology and Concepts of Buddhist Philosophy*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi.
  - Nakamura, H. 1966. "The Fundamental Standing of Early Buddhist Ethics." *Acta Asiatic*, No. 11-18 (in English)
  - Nakamura, Hajime. 1999. *Buddhism in Comparative Light*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi,
  - Obeyesekere, G., Frank Reynolds, & B.L. Smith (eds.) 1972. *The Two Wheels of Dhamma: Essays on the Theravada Tradition on India and Ceylon*, American Academy of Religion, Chambersburg, Pa.
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  - Prebish. S, C.1996. "Ambiguity and Conflict in the Study of Buddhist Ethics: An Introduction." *Journal of Religious Ethics*, vol. 24. No.2.
  - Ratnapala, N.1993. *Buddhist Sociology*. (Bibliotheca-Indo-Buddhica Series, No. 117), Sri Satguru Pub., Delhi.
  - Reat, Noble Ross, *Buddhism: A History*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, 1994.
  - Spiro, M. E.1970. *Buddhism and Society: A Great Tradition and its Burmese Vicissitudes*, Harper and Row, New York, (Geogre Allen & Unwin, London, 1971).
  - Tambiah, S.J. 1976. *World Conqueror And World Renouncer: A Study of Buddhism and Polity in Thailand Against a Historical Background*, CUP, Cambridge.
  - Thomas, Edward J. 1997. *The History of Buddhist Thought*, Reprint. (First Published in 1933, Rea,
  - Upreti, G.B. 1997. *The Early Buddhist World Outlook in Historical Perspective*, Manohar, Delhi.
  - Varma, V P. 1973. *Early Buddhism and Its Origin*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi.
  - Warder, A. 2004. *Indian Buddhism Reprint*. New Delhi.
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**JAINISM : PAPER VII (PART—B)**

**UNIT – 1**

**Jains in Society**

- a) Reform and Revivalism: the rise of Jain sects (the main divisions within Jainism, viz, Mandimargis, Sthankavasis etc)
- b) Monastic organisation: hierarchy within the monastic orders, the religious specialists (monks, bhattacharaks etc): the differences between Digambar and Svetambar Traditions (the contrast between the individualism of Digambar tradition and the church-like ambience of the Svetambar tradition)
- c) Caste among Jains

**UNIT – 2**

**Contribution of Jainism to Fine Arts and the Sciences**

- a) Fine arts (Sculpture/ painting/ architecture), Mathematics etc
- b) Modern Challenges to Jainism (the continuing reforms, e.g., the relaxation on travel among the Terapanthi and Sthanakvasi tradition)

**Suggested Readings:**

- C. Caillat. *Atonements in the Ancient Ritual of the Jaina Monks.*
- H.V.Glasenapp. *Jainism: An Indian Religion of Salvation. Delhi:*
- Herman Jacobi. *Sacred Books of the East, Vol. 22, Introduction*
- James Laidlaw. *Riches and Renunciation: Religion, Economy and Society among the Jains, See relevant Chapters*
- James Laidlaw. *Riches and renunciation: religion, economy, and society among the Jains.*
- John E. Cort. “The Svetambar Murtipujak Jain Mendicant” in *Man (N.S.)* 26, 1991, p. 657-8.
- John E. Cort. *Jains in the world: religious values and ideology in India.*
- K.K. Dixit. *Early Jainism.*
- Lawrence Babb. “Monks and Miracles”
- Lawrence Babb. *Ascetics and kings in a Jain ritual culture.* New Delhi, 1998.
- Michael Carrithers. “Jainism and Buddhism as Enduring Historical Streams” in *Journal of Anthropological Society of Oxford, Vol. 21. No. 2, 1990.*
- P.S. Jaini. “Jaina Puranas: A Puranic Counter Tradition” in P.S. Jaini, *Purana Perennis: Reciprocity and Transformation in Hindu and Jaina Texts* edited by Wendy Doniger, pp. 207-249
- P.S. Jaini. “The Jains and the Western Scholar” in P.S. Jaini, *Collected Papers on Jaina Studies*
- P.S. Jaini. *The Jaina Path of Purification*
- Paul Dundas. “Food and Freedom: The Jaina Sectarian Debate on the Nature of Kevalin” in N.K. Singhi (ed.) *Ideal, Ideology and Practice: Studies in Jainism*
- Paul Dundas. *The Jains, See Relevant Chapters*

## **M.A. in Comparative Religion- Syllabus and Paper Profiles (w.e.f. 2018-2019)**

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- R. Robinson and S. Clarke (ed). *Religious Conversion in India: Modes, Motivations, and Meanings*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press 2003, (See, “Conversion to Jainism: Historical Perspectives” pp. 125-48).
  - R.K. Jain. *The Universe as Audience: Metaphor and Community among the Jains of North India*, See Chapters I and II.
  - R. Williams. *Jaina Yoga: A Survey of the Medieval Śrāvakaśāstras*
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**PAPER – VIII & IX**

**JUDAISM**

The course aims at a general as well as an extensive description of Judaism, through the study of its different themes, principles and key concepts, its creed and praxis, as well as its history. The students are introduced to both the foundational and principal texts of Judaism, to the views of several Jewish masters over the centuries, to the mystical and ethical aspects in Judaism, the role of cult including festivals and its place in the everyday life of a Jew. They also learn the basic facts of the history of Jewish-Christian relations and its connection with the Shoah.

The course investigates the cross cultural resonances among the Judaic and Indian traditions as well as the indo-judaic studies in the 21st century.

Some of the key questions taken up for reflection are: What place does the study of Torah, prayer and mysticism have in the daily life of a Jew? What role does Jerusalem and the Temple play in the identity of the Jewish people? Can the principles of a global ethical code be seen in Judaism? What is the status of women in the Bible? How has Judaism shaped world history? What are the contributions of Jewish thinkers to world thought?

**Semester – II**

**JUDAISM : PAPER VIII (PART—A)**

**UNIT – 1**

The Salient features of Old Testament as a Religious Scripture – Monotheism..  
The Religious Interpretation of History.  
Religious Law as a means of Salvation.

**UNIT – 2**

The History of Jewish People.  
The Development of Jewish Theology and Talmud Writings.  
Jewish Mysticism – Kabala – Hasidism.

**Suggested Readings:**

- Arthur Hertzberg, *Judaism*
- Bentwich, N. *Israel*
- Dan Cohn-Sherbok, *Judaism: History, Belief and Practice*, Routledge, London
- Daniel H Frank, et.al. Ed., *The Jewish Philosophy Reader*.
- Delbert R. Hillers, “Analyzing the Abominable: Our Understanding of Canaanite Religion” *The*
- Jacob Neusner & Alan J. Avery-Peck, *Routledge Dictionary of Judaism*.
- John Bright, *History of Israel*
- John Skinner, *Prophecy and Religion*

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- Keith W. Whitelam, *The Invention of Ancient Israel*.
  - Kohler, Kaufmann. *Jewish Theology*
  - Levin, Ephraime. *Judaism*
  - M. H. Segal "The Religion of Israel before Sinai", Part II *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, New Ser., Vol.53, No. 3. (Jan., 1963), pp. 226-256.
  - M. H. Segal, "The Religion of Israel before Sinai", Part I *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, New Ser., Vol.52, No. 1. (Jul., 1961), pp. 41-68.
  - Martin Gilbert, *The Routledge Atlas of Jewish History*,
  - Moore, G.F. *Judaism in the First Centuries of the Christian Era*
  - Mordecai M. Kaplan, *The Evolution of the Idea of God in Jewish Religion*.
  - Otto J. Baab, *The Theology of the Old Testament*
  - Rabinowicz, Oskar.K. Arnold Toynbee on Judaism and Zionism
  - Raphael Patai, "Ethnohistory and Inner History: The Jewish Case", *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, New Ser., Vol. 67, No. 1. (Jul., 1976), pp. 1-15.
  - Renckens, Henry. *The Religion of Israel*
  - Robert Chazan, "The Early Development
  - Robert H. Pfeiffer, *Introduction to the Old Testament*
  - Rose, Gillian. *Judaism and Modernity: Philosophical essays*.
  - Wouk, Herman. *This is my God: The Jewish Way of Life*  
*Jewish Quarterly Review*, New Ser., Vol. 75, No. 3. (Jan., 1985), pp. 253-269.
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**Semester – III**

**JUDAISM : PAPER IX (PART—B)**

**UNIT – 1**

The Jewish People in Diaspora.  
The Jewish People in the Medieval Islamic World.  
The Jewish People and the Renaissance.

**UNIT – 2**

Judaism in the Modern Period: Holocaust, Anti-Semitism, Zionism.  
The Jewish People in India  
The State of Israel.  
Tradition and Modernity in the Contemporary Israelite Society.

**Suggested Readings:**

- Arthur Hertzberg, *Judaism*
- John Bright, *History of Israel*
- John Skinner, *Prophecy and Religion*
- Otto J. Baab, *The Theology of the old Testament*
- Robert H. Pfeiffer, *Introduction to the Old Testament*
- Dan Cohn-Sherbok, *Judaism: History, Belief and Practice*, Routledge, London
- Daniel H Frank, et.al. Ed., *The Jewish Philosophy Reader*.
- Delbert R. Hillers, "Analyzing the Abominable: Our Understanding of Canaanite Religion" *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, New Ser., Vol. 75, No. 3. (Jan., 1985), pp. 253-269.
- Keith W. Whitelam, *The Invention of Ancient Israel*.
- Kohler, Kaufmann. *Jewish Theology*
- Levin, Ephraime. *Judaism*
- M. H. Segal "The Religion of Israel before Sinai", Part I & II *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, New Ser., Vol.52, No. 1. (Jul., 1961), pp. 41-68 & Vol.53, No. 3. (Jan., 1963), pp. 226-256.
- Martin Gilbert, *The Routledge Atlas of Jewish History*,
- Moore, G.F. *Judaism in the First Centuries of the Christian Era*
- Mordecai M. Kaplan, *The Evolution of the Idea of God in Jewish Religion*.
- Rabinowicz, Oskar.K. Arnold Toynbee on Judaism and Zionism
- Raphael Patai, "Ethnohistory and Inner History: The Jewish Case", *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, New Ser., Vol. 67, No. 1. (Jul., 1976), pp. 1-15.
- Renckens, Henry. *The Religion of Israel*
- Robert Chazan, "The Early Development of "Hasidut Ashkenaz" *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, New Ser., Vol. 75, No. 3. (Jan., 1985), pp. 199-211.
- Rose, Gillian. *Judaism and Modernity: Philosophical essays*.
- Wouk, Herman. *This is my God: The Jewish Way of Life*

**PAPER – X & XIII**

**CHRISTIANITY**

The course deals with the origin, history and development of Christianity and the Christian Church. The stories of the formation of the New Testament canon, the different ‘families’ within Christianity, the Church’s zeal for missionary activity, the origins of the Marian cult, the ongoing influence of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation are discussed. The complex relationship between Judaism and Christianity from the period of foundation, through the Middle Ages and Renaissance, up to the contemporary period is considered. Students are initiated to the ethical thinking and moral teachings in Christianity and the writings of major authors from the history of Christian mystical literature.

Some of the basic hermeneutical problems confronted by Biblical Studies today, as well as the different hermeneutical methods and approaches to the Bible, are taken up.

**Semester – III**

**CHRISTIANITY : PAPER X (PART—A)**

**UNIT – 1**

A General Introduction to Christianity and the Conditions at the time of its emergence  
Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ  
The Apostles and their Contribution in the Emergence of the  
Christian Tradition – The Christian Scriptures

**UNIT – 2**

The Development of Christian Theology – The Concepts of Trinity, Original Sin,  
Crucifixion and Redemption - The Special Position of St. Paul and his letters in Christian Theology  
Important Christian Sects – Roman Catholics – Greek Orthodox and Protestant Churches –

**Suggested Readings:**

- Goddess MacGregor *The Bible in the Making*
- Gustavo Cutierrez *A Theology of Liberation*
- John Foster *The first Advance Church History AD 29-500*
- Peter May *The Doctrine of Trinity*
- Sigfried Eathorn *The Christian Doctrines of Salvation*

**PAPER – XI & XIV**

**ISLAM**

The course is designed to explore the changing paradigms of the ever- evolving multi dimensionality of the spread of Islam and its institutions in the regional and global context both historical and contemporary, including, textual, oral and lived traditions. It involves a re-thinking of established notions and a re-visit of contemporary concerns. An attempt is made to offer an Interdisciplinary inter religious approach towards a better understanding of these complex phenomena.

The course aims to present an interlinked study of the Islamic tradition and its diversity from its inception till the present times. The attempt is to contextualize the historical and etymological Arabian roots of Islam, through the Greco-Roman, Assyro-Babylonian, Hebrew, native Arabian and hieroglyphic records. The study of the Quran and its core concepts, the centrality of Prophet Muhammad and his life and times is followed by post-Quranic study, including the Rashidun Caliphate, Mutazzalites, the Asharites, Shiism, and *tasawwuf* and other major trends and sectarian influences .The emergence and the dynamics of the Islamic sciences, Islamicate institutions and the expansion of the ‘Islamic’ theocracy, theology and ‘culture’ is also studied.

**Semester – III**

**ISLAM : PAPER XI (PART—A)**

**UNIT – 1**

The Socio-Religious Conditions in Pre-Islamic Arabia  
The Life of the Prophet Muhammad  
The Basic Teachings of the Qur’an  
The Establishment of the Islamic Community the Medinan State  
The Pious Caliphate and the Early Conquests

**UNIT – 2**

The Unification of a large Part of the Civilized World under Umayyads  
The Development of the Islamic Civilization under Abbasids  
The Establishment of *Shari‘ah* as the basis of Islamic Society  
The Emergence of Sufism

**Suggested Readings:**

- A.J. Arberry, *Sufism- An Account of the Mystics of Islam*
- Ameer Ali, *The Spirit of Islam*
- Bishop John A Subhan, *Sufism-Its Saints and Shrines*

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- H.A. Nicholson, *The Mystics of Islam*
  - K.A. Nizami, *Some Aspects of Religion and Politics in India (13th Century)*
  - Khwaja Kemaluddin, *The Ideal Prophet*
  - Majid Ali Khan, *Pious Caliphs*
  - Mir Valliuddin, *The Quranic Sufism*
  - Mohammed Manzoor Numani, *What Islam Is*
  - Mujeeb, *The Indian Muslims*
  - Philip K. Hitti, *History of the Arabs*
  - R.C. Bhatnagar, *Dimensions of Classical Sufi Thought*
  - W.C. Smith, *Islam in Modern History*
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**PAPER - XII & XV**

**SIKHISM**

The course deals with the origin, development and history of Sikhism: the ideological formulations of Guru Nanak, the varied historical religio-intellectual, and socio-cultural influences which shaped his thoughts. Understanding of these complex processes of cultural assimilation is linked with the uniqueness of Guru Nanak's theological construct based on 'intuitionism'. The spiritualist-materialist tradition of his thought and its interaction with Vedanta and other spiritual traditions is explored. The course delineates the process of canon formation (*pothis, Janam sakebis* etc.), boundary making and the emergence of institutional forms such as *sangat, gurmatta, Sri Akal Takht* etc. The diversity of the popular forms of Sikhism as well as the emergence of the Singh sabhas and Tat-khalsa, the reformation, textual and cultic protest are given equal attention. researched. The course also includes the study of contemporary movements such as the Akali and ethno-nationalist movement for a territorial nation-state.

**Semester – III**

**SIKHSIM : PAPER XII (PART—A)**

**UNIT – 1**

Political, religious and cultural background of Sikhism - Life and Teachings of Guru Nanak Sahib – Historical development of Sikh Panth and Culture – Contribution of Sikh Gurus from Guru Arjun Dev to Guru Tegh Bahadur to the growth of Sikh religious tradition.

**UNIT – 2**

Basic Concepts in Sikh religious philosophy: God, Man and the World - The Concept of Guru – Guru Granth Sahib: its compilation, basic doctrines and place in Sikh religion – The salient philosophical and theological teachings of Jap Ji Saheb.

**Suggested Readings:**

- Balkar Singh, *Sikh Rahaswad*.
- Dharam Singh, *The Sikh Theology Of Liberation*.
- Gurnam Kaur, *Reason And Revelation In Sikhism*.
- Jaswinder Kaur, *Guru Nanak Di Kimat Mimamsa*.
- Jodh Singh, *The Religious Philosophy Of Guru Nanak*.
- Nirbhai Singh, *Philosophy Of Sikhism*.
- Rajinder Kaur Rohi, *semitic and sikh monotheism*.
- Sardul Singh Kawishar , *Sikh Dharma Darshan* (pb).
- Shashi Bala, *Sikh Metaphysics*.
- Sher Singh, *Gurmat Darshan* (pb).
- Sher Singh, *Philosophy of Sikhism*.
- Sohan Singh, *The Seekers of Path*.
- Teja Singh, *Karma and Transmigration*.
- Wazir Singh, *Phalsafa Ate Sikh Phalsafa*.

**Semester – IV**

**CHRISTIANITY : PAPER XIII (PART—B)**

**UNIT – 1**

Church, its History and Organization  
Landmarks in the Spread of Christianity  
Reformation – Renaissance and Secularization of European Society  
The Process of Rationalization and Demythologization of Christian Theology

**UNIT – 2**

Christianity and Colonialism  
Christianity in the Post-Colonial Era  
Christian Ethics of Love and Service to Humanity  
The Challenge of Dialogue between Christian Churches themselves and with Other Religions

**Suggested Readings:**

- *Christianity* Punjabi University, Patiala
- 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*
- Gustavo Cutierrez *A Theology of Liberation*

**Semester – IV**

**ISLAM : PAPER XIV (PART—B)**

**UNIT – 1**

The Contribution of Medieval Islamic Civilization to the Rational Sciences  
Technology and Fine Arts  
The International Trade under Abbasids and the Fatimids  
The Development of Sufism as the Major Religious Instance

**UNIT – 2**

The Challenge of Modernity to the Islamic Societies  
The Reform Movements in the Muslim Societies in the Modern Period  
The Contemporary Situation in Major Blocks of the Muslim Societies

**Suggested Readings:**

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

**Semester – IV**

**SIKHSIM : PAPER XV (PART—B)**

**UNIT – 1**

Contribution of Guru Gobind Singh to Sikh religion and culture  
Dasam Granth and the Creation of Khalsa  
distinguishing features of Sikh religio-cultural tradition: -Langar, Sangat, Pangat and Gurdwara, Miri-Piri and Gurumatta  
Institutions of Religious Authority

**UNIT – 2**

Challenges of Modernity to Sikh Community  
Sikh response to some modern concerns  
Gender equality  
Sikhs in Diaspora

**Suggested Readings:**

- Balkar Singh, *Sikh Rahaswad*.
- Dharam Singh, *The Sikh Theology Of Liberation*.
- Gurnam Kaur, *Reason And Revelation In Sikhism*.
- Jaswinder Kaur, *Guru Nanak Di Kimat Mimamsa*.
- Jodh Singh, *The Religious Philosophy Of Guru Nanak*.
- Nirbhai Singh, *Philosophy Of Sikhism*.
- Rajinder Kaur Rohi, *semitic and sikh monotheism*.
- Sardul Singh Kawishar , *Sikh Dharma Darshan* (pb).
- Shashi Bala, *Sikh Metaphysics*.
- Sher Singh, *Gurmat Darshan* (pb).
- Sher Singh, *Philosophy of Sikhism*.
- Sohan Singh, *The Seekers of Path*.
- Teja Singh, *Karma and Transmigration*.
- Wazir Singh, *Phalsafa Ate Sikh Phalsafa*.



**PAPER – XVI**  
**DISSERTATION**

A dissertation to be submitted to the centre at the end of the fourth semester by the student. She/he shall write the dissertation on a theme/topic chosen by her/him in consultation with a Faculty, who would serve as supervisor. The concerned theme/topic shall broadly fall within the concerns/domain of the major world religions taught over the four semesters at the Centre. The approach of enquiry could be theological, sociological, historical, anthropological Reductive and functionalist, experiential phenomenological, Mystical, Psychoanalytical, et.al

**Word Limit:** 12000 – Approximately 15000 words/40-50 pages

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