University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	World religions, PG_00185597		
Field of study	Cultural Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Culture Studies -> Institute of Culture Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Zbyszek Dymarski	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

- To familiarize students with basic concepts in the history of religion, anthropology of religion, and phenomenology of religion.
- To distinguish between the social and individual dimensions of religion (plural) and their implications for spiritual life.
- To learn about various concepts of the place of religion in culture.
- To learn about the most important universal religions.
- To learn about several systems of ethnic religions.
- To discuss contemporary processes of secularization and postsecularization.
- To encourage students to become interested in the history of religion and the anthropology of religion.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[KULL3_W07] They have knowledge of the fundamental issues of the contemporary world from a cultural studies perspective, as well as of contemporary cultural life.	The student has knowledge of the fundamental problems of the contemporary world from the perspective of religious studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[KULL3_U03] They are able to communicate using specialized terminology in the fields of cultural and religious studies, as well as the arts.	The student is able to communicate using specialized terminology in the field of religious studies.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[KULL3_W05] They know and understand selected issues that constitute advanced specialized knowledge in the field of cultural studies.	The student knows and understands selected issues constituting advanced detailed knowledge in the field of religious studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[KULL3_K03] They are ready to initiate and co-organize activities in support of culture, particularly in the areas of multiculturalism and inclusivity.	The student is ready to initiate and co-organize activities for the study of religions (plural), especially in the field of multiculturalism.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK5] implementation of a problem task
[KULL3_W03] They know and understand cultural studies terminology at an advanced level.	The student knows and understands the terminology in the field of religious studies at an advanced level.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

1. Religions in culture. Ethnic and universal religions. Geography of religions.
2. Definitions of religions through the ages.
3. Evolution and division of religions according to the Söderblom-Scholem concept.
4. Characteristics of religions: cosmic, mystical, prophetic;
5. System of supernatural beings in ethnic religions (deities, spirits, ancestors).
6. Forms of worship in ethnic religions.
7. Examples of ethnic religions: Greek religion, Nuer religion, Shintoism.
8. Religions of Far Asia Hinduism (scriptures, deities, ethics).
9. Religions of Far Asia Buddhism (Buddha, principles, communities).
10. Religions of Far Asia Taoism and Confucianism.
11. Religions of the Middle East Judaism.
12. Religions of the Middle East Islam.
13. Christian religion origins, forms of occurrence, basic principles.
14. Contemporary culture and secularization and postsecularization processes.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

being a cultural studies student.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
knowledge and ability to argue; knowledge of the content and interpretation of selected readings	50.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

1. Michel Malherbe, Religie ludzkości, Kraków 1995;
2. Geo Widengren, Fenomenologia religii, Kraków 2008;
3. Jan Andrzej Kłoczowski, Między samotnością a wspólnotą. Wstęp do filozofii religii, Tarnów 1994
4. Mircea Eliade, Traktat o historii religii, Warszawa 1993 (1966);
5. Mircea Eliade, Historia wierzeń i idei religijnych, Warszawa 1988-1995, t.1-3;
6. Mircea Eliade, W poszukiwaniu historii i znaczenia religii, Warszawa 1997;
7. Tadeusz Gadacz, Bogusław Milerski [red.], Religia. Encyklopedia, Warszawa 2002, t.1-9;
8. Franz König, Hans Waldenfels, Leksykon religii: zjawiska dzieje idee, Warszawa 1997;
9. Peggy Morgan, Clive Lawton, Problemy etyczne w tradycjach sześciu religii, Warszawa 2007;

	Supplementary literature	Włodzimierz Lengauer, Religijność starożytnych Greków, Warszawa 1994; Edward Evan Evans-Pritchard, Religia Neurów, Kęty 2007; Sue Hamilton, Filozofia indyjska. Wprowadzenie, Kraków 2010; Marta Kudelska, Hinduizm, Kraków 2006; Marek Mejor, Buddyzm zarys historii buddyzmu w Indiach, Warszawa 2001; Witold Tyloch, Judaizm, Warszawa 1987; Gerson Scholem, Kabała i jej symbolika, Kraków 1996; Zbigniew Landowski, Islam nurty, odłamy, sekty, Warszawa 2008; Thomas Luckmann, Niewidzialna religia, Kraków 2006; Miłosz Przybyłowski, Religia i sekularyzm. Współczesny spór o sekularyzację, Kraków 2017; Jowita Guja, Ateizm w kulturze Zachodu i Wschodu, Kraków 2012; Kazimierz Banka [red.], Religie Wschodu i Zachodu wybór tekstów, Warszawa 1991.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Identify the basic differences between universalist and ethnic religions. Distinguish the similarities and differences between the anthropology of religion and the phenomenology of religion.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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