

Course description

General information		
Instructor	Mladen Turk, Full professor with tenure	
Course title	Eastern Religions	
Study Programme	University Graduate Programme in Protestant theology	
Type of course	Mandatory	
Year of study	First	
Number of credits and class hours	ECTS credits	2
	Class hours (L+E+S)	2+0+0

<p>1. COURSE DESCRIPTION</p> <p><i>1.1. Course Objectives</i></p> <p>The objectives of this course are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. introduce students to the academic study of religion by giving an overview of religions originating in South, Southeast, and East Asia. The religious traditions covered in this overview include Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto; 2. present the phenomenon of Eastern religions by examining a series of varied cultural and religious expressions; 3. present the study of Eastern religions through linguistics, anthropology, and history; 4. introduce students to primary sources and secondary interpretations of Eastern religions.
<p><i>1.2. Prerequisite</i></p> <p>There are no prerequisites for this course.</p>
<p><i>1.3. Learning outcomes at the Study Programme level</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objectively evaluate scholarly literature in the field of theology. 2. Collect, select, and analyze philosophical-theological and historical-theological resources. 3. Identify and analyze the interdisciplinary relevance of theology. 4. Identify and analyze various theological concepts in the contexts of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and the dialogue between Christian theology and the contemporary society. 5. Design and create forms of applying various theological concepts in the contexts of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and the dialogue between Christian theology, philosophy, culture, and science. 6. Develop the skills necessary for interdisciplinary research and for finding research-based answers to the common questions of theology and other scholarly disciplines. 7. Present models of constructive action in the fields of ecumenical, interreligious, and intercultural dialogue.

8. Through lifelong learning, develop knowledge in the field of theology and the related humanities and social sciences.
9. Assess the applicability of theological-theoretical achievements of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue to the specific ecumenical and interreligious practice, and to the practice of religious communities.

1.4. Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. identify the principal religious traditions and their geographical and historical context;
2. identify the continuities and discontinuities in the religious traditions of South, Southeast, and East Asia;
3. evaluate the variety of cultural and social expressions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto;
4. analyze the principal texts of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto;
5. evaluate the acquired knowledge of textual tradition, history of religions, language, and the anthropology of religions;
6. critically evaluate the differences between Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto;

1.5. Course Content:

1. Introduction: what is religion? Introduction to Hinduism
2. The Upanishads; pious Hinduism; Hinduism and art; modern developments of Hinduism; Mohandas Gandhi and Hindu influence outside of India
3. Introduction to Buddhism
4. Theravada Buddhism: "School of the Elders"; Mahayana Buddhism: "Great Vehicle"; Zen Buddhism: enlightenment through experience; Vajrayana Buddhism: "Diamond Vehicle"
5. Introduction to Jainism
6. The evolution and divisions of Jainism
7. Introduction to Sikhism
8. The evolution of Sikhism; the scripture of Sikhism; Sikhism and the modern world
9. Introduction to Taoism
10. The basic doctrines of Philosophical Taoism; Taoism and the longing for longevity; religious Taoism; Taoism and art; Taoism and the modern world
11. Introduction to Confucianism
12. Confucian literature; the evolution of Confucianism; philosophical schools; the evolution of Confucianism as a religious system; Confucianism and art
13. Introduction to Shinto
14. Shinto religious practice; Shinto and art; Shinto and the modern world

1.6. Modes of Teaching

x lectures

homework assignments

		<input type="checkbox"/> seminars and workshops <input type="checkbox"/> exercises <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> remote learning <input type="checkbox"/> field teaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multimedia and internet <input type="checkbox"/> laboratory work <input type="checkbox"/> mentored work <input type="checkbox"/> other <hr/>				
1.7. Comments							
1.8. Course Requirements							
Active participation in discussions during class, regular reading assignments.							
1.9. Course Assessment ¹							
Class attendance		Active participation in class	0,8	Term paper		Experimental work	
Written exam	3,2	Oral exam		Essay		Research	
Project		Quizzes		Written report		Practical work	
Portfolio							
1.10. Grading structure during lectures and on the final exam							
Students' participation will be monitored during the course of the semester. The final exam is in oral form.							
1.11. Mandatory Resources							
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) J. ALLAN <i>et al.</i>, <i>Religije svijeta</i>, Kršćanska sadašnjost, Zagreb, 1998 (select sections). 2) Č. VELJAČIĆ, <i>Budizam</i>, Opus, Beograd, 1998. 3) <i>Filozofija istočnih naroda</i>, u: <i>Filozofska hrestomatija</i>, NZMH, Zagreb, 1998 (select sections). 4) A. REBIĆ (ed.), <i>Opći religijski leksikon</i>, LZMK, Zagreb, 2002 (select entries). 							
1.12. Additional Resources							
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) J. BOWKER, <i>Religije svijeta</i>, Znanje, Zagreb, 1998. 2) <i>Rg veda</i> (multiple editions). 3) <i>Bhagavad gita</i> (multiple editions). 4) <i>Pančatantra</i>, Ljevak, Zagreb, 1999. 							

¹ **IMPORTANT:** Along with every mode of Course Assessment an adequate number of ECTS credits needs to be given, so that the total number of ECTS credits matches the number for the course. Empty fields can be used for additional activities.

- 5) *Tao Te Āing*, Planetopija, Zagreb, 2020.
- 6) *Ji Āing*, Mozaik knjiga, Zagreb, 2020.
- 7) D. T. SUZUKI, *Uvod u zen budizam*, Planetopija, Zagreb, 2018.
- 8) V. DEVIDE, *Zen, Znanje*, Zagreb, 1983.

1.13. *Number of copies of mandatory resources relative to the number of students currently enrolled*

<i>Title</i>	<i>Number of copies</i>	<i>Number of students</i>
Resources are available to students in electronic form.		

1.14. *Modes of quality control that ensure acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences*

Discussions with students during class, and final exam.