



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND
COMPARATIVE RELIGION

VIDYA-BHAVANA

PH.D. COURSE WORK SYLLABUS

COMPARATIVE RELIGION

2025 - 26

VISVA-BHARATI

SANTINIKETAN
WEST BENGAL, INDIA

GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE SYLLABUS

Paper Code	Paper Name	Credit
COURSE - 1	Research Methodology and Techniques	4
COURSE - 2	Elective Course- Comparative Religion	4
COURSE - 3	Reviewing of Published Research Work & Presentation of Synopsis	4
COURSE - 4	Research and Publication Ethics	2

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND COMPARATIVE
RELIGION VISVA-BHARATI, SANTINIKETAN**
SYLLABUS FOR PH.D. COURSE WORK IN COMPARATIVE RELIGION

COURSE – 1

COURSE CODE: COURSE - 1	COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES	
COURSE CREDIT: 4	TOTAL CONTACT HOURS: 104	TYPE OF COURSE: CORE
TOTAL ASSESSMENT MARKS: 100	INTERNAL MARKS: 20	END SEMESTER MARKS: 80

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To make the students to know the need, scope and challenges of research 2. To introduce the students a systematic method of data collection and sampling method 3. To familiarize the students with modern techniques of data analysis and interpretation 4. To teach the students to prepare a systematic method of report writing and use of MS Word 5. To help the students to be familiar with different kind of citations and references

SL. No.	CONTENT OF COURSE
1.	Foundation of Research – Definition and Importance of Research; Types of Research and Methods of Research
2.	Review of Literature - Definition and Importance; Literature Search Procedure; Sources of Literature
3.	Planning of Research – Selection of a research Problem; Formulation of the Selected Problem; Formulating Research Question, Objectives and Hypothesis of Research
4.	Data Collection – Definition and Importance; Types of Data Collection; Method for Collecting Qualitative Data; Method for Collecting Quantitative Data
5.	Sampling Method – Sampling Methods; Sample Design; Sample Size
6.	Data Analysis and Interpretation - Types and Methods of Data Analysis; Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis; Techniques of Data Analysis; Data Interpretation
7.	Techniques of Report Writing – Preliminary Stage of Report Writing; Process of Report Writing; Finishing Works of Report Writing; Use of MS Word in Report Writing
8.	Citations and References – Chicago Style of Foot Note and End Note Citations; In-text Citation; Chicago and APA Styles of Bibliography; Webliography

SUGGESTED READINGS	
1.	Bhakar, Sher Singh. (Ed.). (2015). <i>A Hand Book on Writing Research Paper in Social Sciences</i> . Bharti Publications.
2.	Billups, Felice D. (2019). <i>Qualitative Data Collection Tools: Design, Development, and Applications</i> . Sage Publications, Inc.
3.	Bora, Pranjal. (2023). <i>A Concise Book on Research Methodology and Research and Publication Ethics</i> . Notion Press.
4.	Bordens, K. S. And Abbott, B. B. (2011). <i>Research Design and Methods - A Process Approach</i> . Mcgraw-Hill.
5.	Henn, M Mark. (2006). <i>A Short Introduction to Social Research</i> . Vistaar Publications.
6.	Jones, Herbert. (2020). <i>Data Analytics: An Essential Beginner's Guide to Data Mining, Data Collection, Big Data Analytics for Business, and Business Intelligence Concepts</i> . Bravex Publications.

7.	Kothari, C. R. (2014). <i>Research Methodology – Methods and Techniques</i> . New Age Publications.
8.	Krishnaswami, O. R. (2001). <i>Methodology of Research in Social Sciences</i> . Himalaya Publishing House.
9.	Kumar, Renjith. (2009). <i>Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Research</i> . Pearson Education.
10.	Kundan, K. (2012). <i>Data Interpretation</i> . BSC Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd.
11.	Mullar, Jake. (2014). <i>Writing in the Social Sciences: A Guide for Term Papers and Book Reviews</i> . Oxford University Press.

COURSE - 2

COURSE CODE: COURSE - 2	COURSE TITLE: Elective Course- Comparative Religion	
COURSE CREDIT: 4 (FOUR)	TOTAL CONTACT HOURS:	TYPE OF COURSE: THEORY
TOTAL MARKS: 100	INTERNAL MARKS: 20	END SEMESTER MARKS: 80

The present course contains a total of thirteen (13) topics (of 1 credit each), out of which four (4) topics will be taught for each PhD coursework semester.

SL. No.	CONTENT OF COURSE	CONT. HRS.
1.	Karl Marx: Basis and Superstructure – Religion and Class	
2.	E. Durkheim: Collective Consciousness	
3.	Babasaheb Ambedkar: Caste, Class and Religion	
4.	Jotirao Phule: Religion and Slavery	
5.	E.V. R. Periyar: Religion, Women and Self Respect	
6.	Iyothee Thassar: Religion and Sudhesi	
7.	Comparative Study of the Bhagavadgītā (Selections)	
8.	Philosophy of Religion: Arguments for the existence of God (Indian and Western Perspectives)	
9.	The Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition	
10.	Malinowski and Levi-Strauss on Totem and Myth	
11.	Saiva Siddhanta – Pati/Pasu/Pasam	
12.	Feminist Research Methodology: Difference between Feminist Research and Traditional Research, Limitations of Social Science Research in Women's Issues, Feminist Standpoint, Ethnography, Queer.	
13.	Gender and Religions: Religions and feminine mystique, Female, spirituality and cult of Goddesses, Women, religion and ecological conservation	
SUGGESTED READINGS		
1.	For Sl. No. 1 i) Marx, Karl. <i>Theses on Feuerbach</i> ii) Marx, Karl. <i>Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy</i> iii) Raines, John. (2006). (ed.). <i>Marx on Religion</i> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press.	
2.	For Sl. No. 2 Durkheim, Emile. (1976)., <i>The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life</i> , (tr.) J. W. Swain. London: George Allen & Unwin.	
3.	For Sl. No. 3 Ambedkar, B. R. (2014). <i>Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings and Speeches</i> (Vol. I and III). (V. Moon, Ed.) New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	
4.	For Sl. No. 4 Phule, Jotirao Govindrao (1991). <i>Slavery</i> . (P. G. Patil, Tr.) Bombay: Education Department, Government of Maharashtra	

5.	For Sl. No. 5 i) E.V.Ramasamy, P. (2016). <i>Collected Works of Periyar E. V. Ramasamy</i> . (K. Veeramani, Ed.) Chennai: The Periya Self Respect Institution ii) Geetha, V. (2015). <i>Self-Respect Marriage</i> . New Delhi: Critical Quest
6.	For Sl. No. 6 Thassar, Iyothee (2018). <i>Sudhesi Reform</i> . (G. Aloysius, Tr.) New Delhi: Critical Quest.
7.	For Sl. No. 7: i) The Bhagavadgītā Bhāṣya of Śaṅkarācārya, Translation: A.G.Krishna Warriar (Latest Edition), Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Chennai; ii) Śrī Rāmānuja Gītā Bhāṣya, Translation: Swami Abhedananda (Latest Edition), Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata; iii) Srīmad Bhagavadgita Rahasya or Karmayoga Shastra, Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Latest Edition), Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Pune.
8.	For Sl. No. 8: i) Hick, John (1963/2015). <i>Philosophy of Religion</i> , Prentice Hall of India (Latest Edition), New Delhi; ii) <i>Nyāya Sūtras</i> of Gautama, Translation: Ganga Nath Jha (Latest Edition), Motilal Barasidass, New Delhi; iii) <i>Mīmāṃsā Sūtras</i> of Jaimini, Translation: Mohal Lal Sandal (Latest Edition), Motilal Barasidass, New Delhi.
9.	For Sl. No. 9: Selections from the following texts as appropriate: i) Rigvedic Hymns ii) Devi Bhagavata Purana iii) McDaniel, June. (1989) <i>The Madness of the Saints</i> , University of Chicago Press. iv) McDaniel, June. (2004) <i>Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls</i> , OUP USA. v) McDaniel, June (2002) <i>Making Virtuous Daughters and Wives</i> , Suny Press. vi) Eck, Diana L. (1993) <i>Benaras: City of Light</i> , Penguin books India. vii) Altekar, A.S. (2016) <i>The Position of Women in Hindu Civilization</i> , Motilal Banarasidass Publishers, Delhi. viii) Padia, Chandrakanta (Ed.). (2009) <i>Women in Dharmasastras: A Phenomenological and Critical Analysis</i> , Rawat Publication. ix) Sharma, Arvind (Ed.) (2007) <i>Goddesses and Women in the Indic Religious Tradition</i> , Indica Books. x) Doniger, Wendy. (2009) <i>The Hindus: An Alternative History</i> , The Penguin Press.
10.	For Sl. No. 10: i) Malinowski, Bronislaw. (1954) <i>Magic, Science and Religion and Other Essays</i> , Doubleday & Company, Inc, New York. ii) Levi-Strauss, Claude. (2009) <i>Myth and Meaning</i> , Routledge, London iii) Wiseman, B. Groves, j. (2014). <i>Introducing Levi-Strauss: A Graphic Guide</i>
11.	For Sl. No. 11:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Canagarayar, T. (1961). <i>Metaphysics of Saiva Siddhanta System: Sivajnana Bodham</i>. Raja Press; ii) Devasenapathi, V. A. (1974). <i>Saiva Siddhanta as Expounded in Sivajnana Siddhiyar and its Six Commentaries</i>. (T. M. Mahadevan, Ed.) University of Madras; iii) Kandaswamy, S. N. (1997). <i>The Concept of God in Saiva Siddhanta</i>. Manickam Printers; iv) Ponniah, V. (1952). <i>The Saiva Siddhanta Theory of Knowledge</i>. Annamalai University; v) Schomerus, H. W. (2000). <i>Saiva Siddhanta: An Indian School of Mystical Thought</i>. (H. Palmer, Ed., & M. Law, Trans.) Motilal Banarsidas.
12.	<p>For Sl. No. 12: (Selections from the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Babbie, E. (1979). <i>The Practice for Social Research</i>. Bombay: Himalaya Publishing House. ii) Eichler, M. (1991). <i>Non-Sexist Research Methods: A Practical Guideline</i>. Routledge Chapman & Hall. iii) Harding, S. (1987). <i>Feminism and Methodology: Social Science Issues "ed"</i>. Indiana UP: Bloomington. iv) Hatt, G. a. (1952). <i>Methods in Social Research</i>. Bombay: Macgrawhill. v) Holland, C. R. (2003). <i>Feminist Methodology, Challenges and Choices</i>. New Delhi: Sage Publications. vi) Kothari, C. (1995). <i>Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques</i>. New Delhi: Willey Eastern LTD. vii) Krishanaraj, M. (1985). <i>Evolving New Methodologies in Research on Women's Studies</i>. Bombay: SNDT Women's University. viii) Mohanty, C. T. (2003). <i>Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Therory, Practicing Solidarity</i>. Durham; London:Duke University Press. ix) Roberts, H. (1984). <i>Doing Feminist Research"ed"</i>. London: Rutledge and Kegan Paul.
13.	<p>For Sl. No. 13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Choudhury, V. (1983). <i>Goddess Worship in Ancient India</i>. Santiniketan: Visva Bharati. II. Horner, I. (1930). <i>Women Under Primitive Buddhism</i>. Motilal Banarasidass. III. King, U. (1987). <i>Women and World Religion, past and Present</i>. New York: Paragon House. IV. King, U. (1997). <i>Women and Spirituality</i>. New York: New Amsterdam. V. Marcelle, B. (1976). <i>The Nuns</i>. London: Collins. VI. Sen, K. (1950). <i>Prachin Bharate Nari</i>. Shantiniketan: Visva Bharati. VII. Sharma, A. (1993). <i>Women and Religion</i>. Suny Press. VIII. Theris. (2015). <i>Therigatha</i>. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.