DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & COMPARATIVE RELIGION VISVA-BHARATI SANTINIKETAN

SYLLABUS FOR B.A. (HONS.) PROGRAMME / CURRICULUM IN COMPARATIVE RELIGION (2017)

SCHEME FOR CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM

Each course has 50 marks including internal assessment of 10 marks. Credit: As stipulated by the University Administration

S e n e s t e r	Cor			ty / Skill ncement se (4) Course ves 2 its	Discipline Specific Elective DSE (4) Each Course involves 6 Credits	Generic Elective GE (4) Each Course involves 6 Credits	
	01: C-	Hinduism: Origin and Development Islam: Origin and Development	Comp Cours	oulsory se		GE-	Philosophy of Religion – I
E M -	03: C-	Sikhism: Origin and Development Jainism: Origin and Development	Compulsory Course			GE-	Philosophy of Religion – II
E	05: C-	Buddhism: Origin and Development Christianity: Origin and Development Significant Religious Themes – I	SEC -03:	Methodol ogy and Data Collection for the Study of Religion		GE-	Tribal religions – Religion of Santals
E M - I	C- 08: C- 09: C- 10:	Hinduism – Textual Study Islam – Textual Study Significant Religious Themes – II	l	Field Study and Dissertati on		GE-	Folk Religious Traditions of Bengal

	1 1:	Jainism – Textual Study	DSE-01 & 02
S E M -			Taoism – Textual Study Judaism –
		Sikhism – Textual Study	Textual Study Special Text (Indian) Critique of Religion – I
S E M - V	l :	Buddhism – Textual Study	Confucianis m – Textual Study Zoroastrian
	C- 14:	Christianity – Textual Study	ism – Textual Study Special Text (Western) Critique of Religion – II

SEMESTER-I

C-01: HINDUISM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Indus Valley Period: Traces of elements of Hinduism
- 2. Vedic Period: Oral and Written tradition of Vedas Rituals Sacrifices Gods of Vedas Upanisads Atheism
- 3. Epic and Puranic Period: Composition of the Mahabharata and Ramayana and major Puranas-Dharma Sastras - Vaishnavism, Saivism, Saktism- yoga literature
- 4. The Medieval Period: Bhakti –development of religious cults –devotional literature- Tantric literature
- 5. The Modern Period: Renaissance Hinduism Hinduism as a world religion

Text:

- 1. Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism*, Cambridge University Press, 2004 (Selections) **Suggested Readings:**
- 1. Trevor Ling, A History of Religion East and West, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
- 2. E.O. James, *History of Religions*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
- 3. John B. Noss, Man's Religions, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
- 4. David N. Lorenzen, *Who Invented Hinduism? Essays on Religion in History*, Yoda Press, New Delhi, 2008.

C-02: ISLAM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Origin of Islam: Social-Political Circumstances of Arabia during 7th Century C.E. The Life of Prophet Mohammed Caliphates
- 2. Medieval Period: Spread of Islam Sufism Islam in India
- Modern Period: Islam in the Modern World Modern Religious Movements (India and Abroad) Partition – Problems associated with Religious Majority and Minorities in Indian Context

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Trevor Ling, A History of Religion East and West, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
- 2. E.O. James, History of Religions, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
- 3. John B. Noss, Man's Religions, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
- 4. The Cambridge History of Islam, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- 5. Masudul Hassan, History of Islam, Vols. I & II, Kitab Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 6. K. Ali, A Study of Islamic History, Adam Pub & Dist., New Delhi.
- 7. Md. Sirajul Islam, Sufism and Bhakti A Comparative Study, CRVP, Washington, 2004.
- 8. M. Mujeeb, Islam in India, Kitab Bhavan, New Delhi.

GE-01: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION - I

- 1. Proofs for the Existence of God
- 2. Proofs against the Existence of God
- 3. Problem of Evil

Text:

- 1. Hick, John. Philosophy of Religion, Chapters 2, 3 and 4.
- 2. Bhattacharya, Gopika Mohan, *Studies in Nyaya Vaisesika Theism*, Sanskrit College, Kolkata, 1961. (Selections).

SEMESTER-II

C-03: SIKHISM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Socio-Politico-Religious Background of Punjab during 15th Century Impact of Bhakti Movement and Sufism
- 2. Ten Gurus: Their Lives and Contributions The Living Guru Khalsa
- 3. Banda Singh Bahadur Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- 4. Nirankari, Namdhari, Singh Sabha Movements Siromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Akali Movement Sikh Nationalism Dera Panths

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Trevor Ling, A History of Religion East and West, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
- 2. E.O. James, History of Religions, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
- 3. John B. Noss, Man's Religions, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
- 4. Kushwant Singh, A History of the Sikhs, (I & II Vols.), Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

C-04: JAINISM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Rise of Jainism: Socio-Political Situations
- 2. Early Jainism: Thirthankaras Parsvanatha Mahavira and His Life and Teachings
- 3. Svetambara and Digambara Sects
- 4. Archaeology and Jain Art Cave Beds Monuments
- 5. Jains in Modern context

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Trevor Ling, A History of Religion East and West, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
- 2. E.O. James, History of Religions, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
- 3. John B. Noss, Man's Religions, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
- 4. Sinclair Stevenson, The Heart of Jainism, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1970.

GE-02: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION - II

- 1. Religious experience
- 2. Religious language and meaning
- 3. Conflicting Truth Claims of Different Religions

Texts:

- 1. James, William. Varieties of Religious Experience, Pp. 485-501, 512-15.
- 2. Hick, John. Philosophy of Religion, chapters 7 and 9.

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, book1.Q12 articles 1-12
- 2. Smith, Wilfred Cantwell. The Faith of Other Men
- 3. Tillich, Paul. The Dynamics of Faith, Pp.41-54.
- 4. Murty, K. Sachidananda, Revelation and Truth (Selections).
- 5. Brain Davis, *Philosophy of Religion*, Oxford University Press, New York.

SEMESTER-III

C-05: BUDDHISM: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Rise of Buddhism: Socio Political Situations: Tribal Republics, Kshatriya Clans Buddha Life and Teachings
- 2. Early Buddhism: Impact of Asoka Buddhist Councils Development of Doctrines Development and Division of Monastic Traditions Elaboration of Hinayana Tradition
- 3. Mahayana and Vajrayana Traditions Buddhist Impact on Popular life
- 4. Neo-Buddhism and Ambedkar Movement Buddhism and the Minorities in Sri Lanka and Myanmar

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Trevor Ling, A History of Religion East and West, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
- 2. E.O. James, *History of Religions*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
- 3. John B. Noss, Man's Religions, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
- 4. T.W. Rhys Davids, *Buddhism Being a Sketch of the Life and Teachings of Gautama, The Buddha*, Low Price Publications, Delhi, 2010.
- 5. Pande, G.C. Studies In the Origin of Buddhism, Delhi, 1967.
- 6. Humphreys, C. Buddhism, London, 1974.

C-06: CHRISTIANITY: ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Origin of Christianity: Socio-Political Circumstances during the time of Jesus The life of Jesus Early Christians
- Romans and Christianity: Constantine and Christianity Development of Christian Literature Catholicism – Beginning and Growth of Christian Monasticism – Crusades
- 3. Modern Period: Renaissance and Christianity Enlightenment and Christianity Martin Luther and Protestantism Colonialism and Christian Evangelism Liberation Theology
- 4. Christianity and India: St. Thomas Syrian Catholics Caste and Conversion Dalit Theology

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Trevor Ling, A History of Religion East and West, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
- 2. E.O. James, History of Religions, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, 1957.
- 3. John B. Noss, Man's Religions, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.
- 4. The Cambridge History of Christianity, Vol. 1–9, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

C-07: SIGNIFICANT RELIGIOUS THEMES - I

- 1. Concept of God and Divine
 - a. Introduction to Concept of God: Gnosticism Agnosticism Naturalism Polytheism Monotheism Pantheism Panentheism Atheism
 - b. Folk Religious Beliefs: Male Gods Goddess Worship Fertility Principle
 - c. Concept of God in different religions and systems of thought
- 2. Concept of Soul and Human
 - a. Concepts of Soul in Tribal (Primitive) Religions: Theoretical Elaborations: Animism, Totemism,
 - b. Varieties of the Origin and Destiny of Soul Internal Soul: Breath, Saliva, Blood, Vital Organs of the Body, Sexual Potentials External Souls: Shadow, 'Double' Powers of Soul
 - c. Concept of soul and human in different religions and systems of thought
- 3. Salvation and/or Liberation
 - a. Liberation as Individual and Social

b. Salvation and/or Liberation in different religions and systems of thought – Idea of Grace

Texts

- 1. (*Ed.*) Mircea Eliade, *Encyclopedia of Religion, Vol. 1 14*, (Selected Articles), Macmillan Publishing Company, New York.
- 2. (Ed.) James Hastings, Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, Vol. I XII, (Selected Articles), T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, 1974.

SEC-03: METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

- 1. Sampling
- 2. Methods of Collection of Data
- 3. Tools for Collection of Data
- 4. Field Work
- 5. Processing Data

Texts:

- 1. C. R. Kothari, Research Methodology Methods and Techniques, New Age Publications, 2014.
- 2. O. R. Krishnaswami, *Methodology of Research in Social Sciences*, Himalaya Publishing House, Mumbai, 2001.

GE-03: TRIBAL RELIGIONS - RELIGION OF SANTALS

- 1. Structure of the Santal society
- 2. Supernatural spirits and power
- 3. Seasonal rites and festivals
- 4. Life-cycle rites
- 5. Magic and Witchcraft

Text

1. J. Troisi, Tribal Religion: Religious Beliefs and Practices among the Santals, Manohar, 2000.

SEMESTER-IV

C-08: HINDUISM - TEXTUAL STUDY

- 1. Katha Upanishad (Selections)
- 2. The Bhagavad Gita, Chapter: 2 Samkhya yoga
- 3. Diana L. Eck, Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey From Bozeman to Benaras, Penguin books, 1995. (Ch-3: The many names of God: The Habit of Oneness and the challenge of many, Darshana: Point of view, The naming of God, Mahatmya: the greatness of each God, Trimurti: the many forms of each God, Ishtadevata: the chosen God)

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Mittal, Sushil & Gene Gene Thursby. "On Hinduism and Hinduisms: The Way of the Banyan" in Hindu World, Routledge
- 2. Hopkins, Thomas. The Hindu Religious Tradition.
- 3. Kinsley, David. Hindu goddesses: Vision of the Divine Female in the Hindu Religious Tradition.
- 4. Narayanan, Vasudha. "The Hindu Tradition" in Oxtoby, World Religions: Eastern Traditions.
- 5. Radhakrishnan, Sarvapalli (Tr.). The Principal Upanishads.
- 6. Sivaraman, Krishnan. Hindu Spirituality: Vedas through Vedanta.
- 7. Clayton, A.C. The Rig Vea and the Vedic Religion, 2nd Edition.
- 8. Leslie, Julia. Rolesand Rituals for Hindu Women
- 9. David N. Lorenzen, Who Invented Hinduism? Essays on Religion in History, Yoda Press, New Delhi, 2008.

C-09: ISLAM - TEXTUAL STUDY

- 1. The Holy Quran: 1: 1-7; 59: 22-24; 112: 1-4; 17: 23-40; 31:13-30
- 2. The Hadith: From Nisar Ahmed: The Fundamental Teaching of Quran and Hadith, part-1: Pp.80-83, 90-92, 95-98, 100-102, 104-107
- 3. Masadul Hasan: History of Islam, Vol. 1 (Life of Prophet Mohammad: Meccan period), Pp. 46-62
- 1. Ayoub, Mahmoud. The Quran and its Interpreters. Albany: SUNY Press, c1984.

- 2. (The) Holy Quran (trans. By A. J. Arberry).
- 3. Smith, Wilfred Cantwell. Modern Islam in India: A Social Analysis.
- 4. Yusuf Ali (Tr.), The Holy Quran, Mecca.

C-10: SIGNIFICANT RELIGIOUS THEMES - II

- 1. Concept of World
 - a. Status of World and its Objects in Tribal (Primitive) and Folk Religious Beliefs
 - b. Status of World and its Beings in different religions and systems of thought
- 2. Incarnation and Avatara
 - a. Concept of Incarnation or Avatara in Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Saivism, Vaishnavism, Puranic Traditions
- 3. Miracles and Supranormal Powers
 - a. Distinction between Magic and Miracle
 - b. Notion of Miracle in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hindu Puranic Traditions and Popular Beliefs
- 4. Role of Intermediaries in Religions
 - a. Role of Intermediaries in Tribal (Primitive) Religious Beliefs: Shamans, Magicians
 - b. Role of Intermediaries in Folk Religious Beliefs: Priests and People Possessed of Deities, Cultic Figures
 - c. Role of Intermediaries in Religions: Judaism: Rabbi Christianity: Pope, Saints and Priests Buddhism: Bhikkus and Bhikkunis Vedic and Vedantic Traditions: Acharya Bhakti tradition: Guru and Sants Sikhism: Guru

Texts

- 1. (*Ed.*) Mircea Eliade, *Encyclopedia of Religion, Vol. 1 14*, (Selected Articles), Macmillan Publishing Company, New York.
- 2. (Ed.) James Hastings, Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, Vol. I XII, (Selected Articles), T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, 1974.

SEC-04: FIELD STUDY AND DISSERTATION

Paper consists of 50 marks having 40 marks for external examiner for examining the written submission and viva-voce (30+10) and 10 marks for the internal examiner. The submission should not exceed 50 pages.

GE-04: FOLK RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF BENGAL

- 1. Bengali Brata Rituals
- 2. The Bauls of Bengal
- 3. Possession culture in Adivasi and Folk traditions

Texts:

- 1. June McDaniel. Making Virtuous Daughter's and Wives: An Introduction to Women's Brata Rituals in Bengali Folk Religion (selections).
- 2. R.M. Sarkar, Bauls of Bengal (selections)
- 3. June McDaniel, Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls, OUP (selections)

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Upendranath Bhattacharya, Banglar Baul O Baul Gaan
- 2. Sudhir Chakraborty, Baul Fakir Katha
- 3. Shaktinath Jha, Bastubadi Baul

SEMESTER-V

C-11: JAINISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

- 1. The Heart of Jainism: Sinclare Stevenson (selections)
- 2. Tattvartha Sutra: Umasvati (Pp. 91-147)
- 3. Collected Papers on Jain Studies: Padmanabh S. Jain (Pp.3-19 & 199-215)

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Dundas, Paul, The Jains.
- 2. Jain, Sagarmal, Jain Spirituality

- 3. Jaini, Padmanabh S, The Jaina Path of Purification
- 4. -----Collected papers on Jain Studies
- 5. Narayanan, Vasudha, "The Jain Tradition", in Oxtoby, World Religions: Eastern Traditions.
- 6. O'Connell, Joseph T. (ed.), Jain Doctrine and Practice: Academic Perspectives.
- 7. Umasvati, That Which Is: Tattvarthasutras.
- 8. Wagle, N.K. and Olle Qvarnstrom (Eds.), *Approaches to Jain Studies: Philosophy, Logic, Rituals and Symbols.*

C-12: SIKHISM - TEXTUAL STUDY

- 1. Moolmantra and Japuji from Guru Granth Sahib
- 2. Ravidas' Begampura from Guru Granth Sahib
- 3. Daljeet Singh The Sikh Ideology

Texts:

- 1. Manmohan Singh (*Tr.*), *Sri Guru Granth Sahib*, (Vol. I and II), Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar, 2006
- 2. Daljeet Singh, The Sikh Ideology, Guru Nanak Foundation, New Delhi, 1984.

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Daljeet Singh and Kharak Singh, *Sikhism Its Philosophy and History*, Institute of Sikh Studies, Chandigarh, 2008.
- 2. N. Muthu Mohan (*Ed.*), *South Indian Studies in Sikhism*, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 2004.

DSE-03 & 04

TAOISM - TEXTUAL STUDY

- 1. Origin-Belief-Practices-Holy Texts-Sacred Places
- 2. Dao De Jing

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Sources of Chinese Tradition compiled by Theodore De Barry,
- 2. Ling-Tsit Cham, Burton Watson, Ch. 4 (Taoism)
- 3. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore, Understanding Taoism, Duncan Baird Publishers, London, 2003

JUDAISM - TEXTUAL STUDY

- The Torah: Genesis: Ch 1 & 2 (Creation and Fall); Exodus: Ch 3 & 14 (Exodus and Exodus Narrative)
- 2. The Prophets: Isaiah 42 & 43 (Songs of the Servants); Hosea Ch 1 & 2 (Marriage symbolism)
- 3. The Psalms: Psalms 27, 42-43 (Fearlessness, Lament in exile)
- 4. Shlomo Sand Mytherritory

Texts:

- 1. The New Orford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989.
- 2. Shlomo Sand, *The Invention of the Land of Isreal From Holy Land to Homeland*, Verso, London and New York, 2014.

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Prophets*. New york: Harper and Row, 1962
- 2. Neusner, Jacob. Early Rabbinic Judaism, Leiden, 1975
- 3. Segel, Allen. 'Judaism' in World Religions: Western Traditions, edited by W.G. Oxtoby, New York, Oxford University Press
- 4. Smith, Huston. *The Soul of Christianity: Restoring the Great Traditions, Harper* San Fransisco, 2005
- 5. Unterman, Alan. Jews: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices, Boston, 1981.
- 6. Weingreen, J. From Bible to Mishna, New York, 1976.

SPECIAL TEXT (INDIAN)

Text: Rabindranath Tagore: The Religion of Man

Des-04: CRITIQUE OF RELIGION - I

Text: G.P. Deshpande (Ed.), Selected Writings of Jotirao Phule, Leftword Boks, Delhi, 2002.

SEMESTER-VI

C-13: BUDDHISM - TEXTUAL STUDY

- 1. Jatakas (Selections)
- 2. Dhammapada (Selections)
- 3. Buddhist India: T. W. Rhys Davids (Ch 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16)

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Amore, Roy & Julia Ching. "The Buddhist Tradition", in Oxtoby edited World Religions: Eastern Traditions.
- 2. Fausball V. Ten Jatakas: The original Pali Text with a Translation and Notes, Bibliolife, 2009.
- 3. Davids, T. W.Rhys. Buddhist India, Delhi: Low Price Publications.
- 4. Richard, H Robinson. The Buddhist Religion
- 5. Warder, A. K. Indian Buddhism
- 6. Zurcher, E. Buddhism: Its Origin and Spread in Words, Maps and Pictures.

C14: CHRISTIANITY – TEXTUAL STUDY

- 1. The Gospel according to Luke: Ch 2, 4, 6, 10: 25-37, 14, 23, 24.
- 2. The Acts of the Apostles: Ch 2, 15: 1-35, 17: 16-34.
- 3. The Letters of Paul: 1 Corinthian, Ch 13-15.
- 4. Peniel Rajkumar: Reading for Liberation Revisiting Christology

Texts

- 1. The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989
- 2. Peniel Rajkumar, *Dalit Theology and Dalit Liberation Problems, Paradigms and Possibilities*, Ashgate Publishing Company, Burlington, 2010.

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Cross, F.L. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1957.
- 2. Gilson, Etiene. *History of Christian Philosophy in the Middle Ages,* New York: Random House, 1955.
- 3. Kung, Hans. *On being a Christian (trans. From German by Edward Quinn).* New York: Doubleday, 1976.
- 4. Lewis, C.S. Mere. Christianity, London: Bles, 1952.
- 5. Oxtoby, Willard G. "The Christian Tradition", in his edited volume, World Religions: Western Traditions, New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- 6. Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Jesus Through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture,* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985.
- 7. Ruether, R. AND E. McLaughlin (*Eds.*). *Women of Spirit: Female Leadership in the Jewish and Christian Traditions*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979.
- 8. Zernov, N. Eastern Christendom: A study of the Origin and Development of the Eastern Orthodox Church, London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson; New York: Putnam, 1961.

DSE-05: CONFUCIANISM – TEXTUAL STUDY

- Life and Teaching of Confucius Confucian Ethics Superior Man (Junzi) Rectification of Names – Heaven (Tien)
- 2. The Analects (Selections)

Suggested Readings:

- 1. Sources of Chinese Tradition compiled by Theodore De Barry.
- 2. Ling-Tsit Cham, Burton Watson, Ch. 2 (Confucious)
- 3. D.C. Lau, Confucius: *The Analects*, Penguin Books, 1979, (Ch-Introducion)

DSE-06: ZOROASTRIANISM - TEXTUAL STUDY

- 1. Textual Sources for the Study of Zoroastrianism by Mary Boyce. 1984. (Introduction)
- 2. The Sacred Books of the East, Vol. 4, Introduction by James Darmesteter
- 3. The Avesta: The Gathas (all the 17 Hymns)
- 4. The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism (2015): Chap. 10: The Parsis by John R. Hinnells; and Chap. 22: Rituals by Michael Stausberg and Ramiyar P. Karanjia

DSE-07: SPECIAL TEXT (WESTERN)

Text: Rudolf Otto. *The Idea of the Holy,* Oxford University Press, 1958. (Selections from the Chapters I to IX, XIV, XVII, XXI)

DSE-08: CRITIQUE OF RELIGION - II

Text: Vasant Moon (*Ed.*), *Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings and Speeches, Vol. 4*, Education Department, Govt of Maharashtra, Bombay, 1987.