

Religious Traditions of India (A002924)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture	0.0h
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Clercq, Eva	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
De Simone, Daniela	LW21	co-lecturer
DiSimone, Charles	LW21	co-lecturer
Mondini, Sara	LW21	co-lecturer
Vekemans, Tine	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Virtual Mobility	5	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A
Elective Set Religion Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Religions of India, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Islam

Position of the course

This course deals with a selection of India's religious traditions. It envisions the knowledge of and insight into central concepts of these traditions, their rise and their development up to the present day, as well as how they are interwoven with broader socio-cultural contexts.

Contents

Using an introductory handbook and supported by didactic materials, this course discusses key concepts from the most significant religious traditions of South Asia: shaiva, vaishnava and shakta for the Hindu traditions, Jainism, South Asian Buddhism and Islam.

Initial competences

A broad interest in Indian culture. Full working knowledge of academic English.

Final competences

- 1 Explaining the central concepts of the Hindu traditions, Jainism, South Asian Buddhism and Islam.
- 2 Having knowledge of and insight into significant academic questions concerning

these traditions

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture (via MSTeams with interactive Q&A): concepts regarding the religious traditions are explained.

Independent work: watching didactic material (text, image, documentary) and sharing thoughts on guiding questions on the Ufora forum.

Recordings of the lectures are available.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Religions of India: an Introduction

Indicative price: € 50

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Sushil Mittal & Gene Thursby

ISBN : 978-1-13868-126-2

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: -

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Reader

Name: text and images for the guided questions

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: A selection of video documentaries.

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

Handbook:

Mittal, Sushil & Gene Thursby. Religions of India: an Introduction. New York & London: Routledge, 2018²

Other:

Dalmia, Vasudha & Heinrich von Stietencron. The Oxford India Hinduism Reader. Oxford: Oxford .

Dundas, Paul. 2002. The Jains (2nd ed.). London: Routledge

Jaini, Padmanabh S. The Jaina Path of Purification. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979.

Johnson, W. J. A Dictionary of Hinduism. Oxford University Press, 2010. Print.

Knott, Kim. Hinduism: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. Print.

Wendy Doniger, Wendy. The Hindus: An Alternative History. Penguin Press, 2010. Print.

Course content-related study coaching

The lecturer will answer specific questions and give extra information by appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written assessment with open-ended questions: responding to open questions, explaining terminology, identifying images.

Participation: watching documentaries and forum participation

Calculation of the examination mark

Written assessment: 90%

Participation: 10%

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation or obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of its parts cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy