

## Religious Traditions of India (A002924)

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

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025**

null

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

De Clercq, Eva

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

crdts

offering

null

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Religions of India, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism

**Position of the course**

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

**Contents**

In this course the key elements from the history and development of the most significant shaiva, vaishnava and shakta traditions, jainism and sikhism are discussed, using some introductory handbooks and supported by visual didactic material. The students further test their knowledge and insight with a visit to a temple. Alternative to this temple visit, students may attend and review a selection of lectures in the Religious Traditions of India lecture series.

**Initial competences**

A broad interest in Indian culture and a good general education.

**Final competences**

- 1 Being able to explain the development of the most important hindu traditions, jainisme and sikhism
- 2 Understanding the terminology specific to these traditions
- 3 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**

Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

In the lectures the different traditions are discussed.  
The excursion consists of a guided temple visit.  
Guided self study: the student writes 1. reviews of films and documentaries

illustrating the theory if the class; 2. EITHER a reflection paper on the excursion, OR a report of two presentations from the Religious Traditions of India lecture series.

### **Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: Introduction to Hinduism

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Handbook

Name: Jainism: an introduction

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Slides

Name: -

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

### **References**

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

Oxford: Oxford .

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.

Madan T.N, Madelaine Biardeau et al. The Hinduism Omnibus. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. Print.

Pennington, Brian K. Was Hinduism Invented?: Britons, Indians, and the Colonial Construction of Religion. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Print.

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

Williams, George M. Handbook of Hindu Mythology. Santa Barbara California: A[BC] -C[LI]O, 2008. Print. Web. 04.05.2013.

<http://jainelibrary.org/> 04.05.2013

### **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, Assignment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions, Assignment

### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Written examination: open questions; open book exam: the student may use the handbooks.

Paper: 1. review van documentaires/films; 2. reflection paper on the temple visit, OR report on two presentations

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Written examination: 30%

Paper: 1. reviews of documentaries/films 50%; 2. Reflectiepaper/reviews of presentaties 20%

### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a

(Approved)

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