

comparative study of religion and culture of today claims to be secular and scientific, its conceptual framework is pervaded by concepts like 'religion', 'worship', 'god', 'salvation', 'liturgy', etc. These concepts have their origin in a Christian-theological framework. Has the study of religion indeed freed itself from the constraints of Christian theology?

(f) How do certain problems in the study of religion recur in the study of culture and society in general? Here, several societal problems of today will be discussed.

To gain insight into each of these problems the students will read relevant texts. The problem and questions will be introduced in the form of online videos and lectures, after which the students will have the opportunity to discuss the texts, problems and questions with the course teacher in work sessions/online discussion groups.

Initial competences

No specific competences are required except the common-sense ideas about religion that exist in the contemporary Western world and a good command of English (which is required for reading the texts that will be discussed during the course).

Final competences

- 1 To have acquired insight into central issues in the comparative study of religion.
- 2 To independently and critically read and analyse scientific texts in the comparative study of religion.
- 3 To formulate a systematically argued standpoint concerning important problems in the study of religion and culture.
- 4 To be able to reflect upon one's own experience and common-sense beliefs concerning Western culture and non-Western cultures.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture, seminar, independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- The central themes and issues will be introduced and discussed in lectures and online videos.
- The guided self-study (reading of texts and online videos) functions as a preparation for the lectures and online seminars.
- On the basis of their guided self-study (reading of texts) and the lectures, the students will be invited to ask questions and participate in discussions during the online seminars, under the guidance of the teacher.

Learning materials and price

Scientific texts that will all be made available on Ufora. It concerns English-language texts.

References

Balagangadhara, S.N. 2005. *"The Heathen in His Blindness...": Asia, the West and the Dynamic of Religion*. Second revised edition. New Delhi: Manohar. Other texts and additional background literature will be made available on Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

- Opportunity to pose question to the teacher during the lectures and online seminars or during the consultation hour.
- Opportunity for feedback in the course of writing the exam paper.
- Opportunity for feedback on exam performance.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

Participation, assignment

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

Participation, assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

(Approved)

Extra information on the examination methods

Evaluation on the basis of (a) an exam paper and (b) participation in the classes and feedback-sessions. The paper addresses a question or task chosen from a list which will be given to the students at the beginning of the semester. The students can get feedback on a version of their exam paper twice during the semester.

Calculation of the examination mark

90% exam paper; 10% participation in classes and feedback-sessions.

Facilities for Working Students

The course material will be made available on Ufora as much as possible, including online videos with the relevant parts of the classes. There will be a possibility to join online seminars and feedback-sessions, where the students can discuss the texts and questions and drafts of their exam paper with the teacher.