

# HBC251e Religion in Contemporary Societies

**Level:** 2

**Credit Units:** 5 Credit Units

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Presentation Pattern:** EVERY SEMESTER

**E-Learning:** FULL - Learning is done ENTIRELY online using interactive study materials in Canvas. Students receive guidance and support from online instructors via discussion forums and emails. There are no face-to-face sessions. If the course has an exam component, this will be administered on-campus.

## **Synopsis:**

Religion remains a mainstay of contemporary societies, serving to organize social life and interaction among people. Here, we trace the historical origins of various religions – Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Taoism, and indigenous religions – and use a comparative approach in our discussion of the philosophical, ritualistic, and institutional aspects of the religions. We also take a closer look at how these religions have evolved in the Asian context.

## **Topics:**

- Overview of the academic study of religion
- Approaches to the study of religion
- Survey of religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism
- Survey of religions (cont'd): Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Shinto, Indigenous religions, New Religious Movements
- Religion and society
- Religion and society (cont'd)

## **Textbooks:**

Woodhead, Linda, et. al: Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations VISBN 9781317439592 3rd ed. (ed.s). 2016. London and New York: Routledge.  
ISBN-13: 1317439592

Molloy, Michael,: Experiencing the Worlds Religion's: Tradition, Challenge and Change, (Alternate ISBN:9789814581578) 6th international ed. 2010 McGraw-Hill  
ISBN-13: 0071318693

**Learning Outcome:**

- Distinguish between normative understandings and truth claims about religion(s) and the aims of the academic study of religion in the social sciences.
- Explain different scholarly approaches to religion and some definitions of religion that flow from these.
- Demonstrate familiarity with a range of forms of religious life (i.e. traditions, institutions etc.) and their historical and cultural contexts.
- Examine the relationship between religion and other forms of social life (including identity, gender roles, nation states, globalisation).
- Question the universal applicability of categories and terms employed in the study of religion and critically discuss key topics and issues involving religions today.
- Apply cultural relativism, methodological and theoretical pluralism, and think cross-culturally and comparatively about religions.
- Sketch religious diversity in the contemporary world.

**Assessment Strategies (Daytime Class):**

<b>Components</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weightage Allocation (%)</b>
Overall Continuous Assessment	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 1	5
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	25
	GROUP BASED ASSIGNMENT 1	15
	DISCUSSION BOARD 1	5
Overall Examinable Components	ECA	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

**Assessment Strategies (Online Class):**

<b>Components</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weightage Allocation (%)</b>
Overall Continuous Assessment	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 1	5
	DISCUSSION BOARD 1	5
	GROUP BASED ASSIGNMENT 1	15
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	25
Overall Examinable Components	ECA	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>