

## **BCRE03 Contemporary Theories of Religion**

**Semester: A**

**ECTS Credits: 5**

**Duration: 11 weeks**

**Contact Hours: 22**

**Quota: None**

**Prerequisite subjects: None**

This course provides a survey of recent developments in the academic study of religion. We will get to know and discuss contemporary theories of religious thought and behaviour by comparing sociological, cognitive and anthropological approaches to myth, ritual, and religious experience.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this course, SF students will be able to:

Recognize the multi-methodical, systematic structure of the discipline and distinguish different methodologies and perspectives.

Identify, distinguish and characterise key concepts in the contemporary academic study of religion

Identify the relevance and consequences of theorizing in the study of religion

Understand and reconstruct critical discussion of theoretical issues

Apply concepts to empirical cases.

### **Indicative Reading:**

Elliott, S.S./Waggoner, M. (eds), *Readings in the theory of religion: map, text, body*, (London: Equinox) 2009.

Jensen, T./Rothstein, M. (eds.), *Secular Theories on Religion*, (Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum press) 2000.

Kunin, S. D., *Religion: the modern theories*, (Baltimore, Md. & London: John Hopkins University Press, 2003).

Stausberg, Michael (ed.), *Contemporary Theories of Religion: A Critical Companion* (London: Routledge, 2009).

Stausberg, Michael/Engler, Steven (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religion* (London: Routledge, 2011).

Taylor, M.C. (ed.), *Critical terms for religious studies*, (Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 1998).

**Assessment:** One 3,000 word essay

### **Name of lecturer**

Professor Alexandra Grieser