

BCRE06 Approaches to the Study of Religion

Semester: B

ECTS Credits: 5

Duration: 11 weeks

Contact Hours: 22

Quota: None

Prerequisite subjects: None

Religion as a cultural phenomenon is interrelated with all aspects of human life. A broad range of approaches are applied within the academic study of religion. After a short overview of the disciplinary history of this subject, the course will provide an introductory understanding of 'classical' approaches such as the sociology, the anthropology and the psychology of religion, and of more recently emerging concepts such as the economy or the aesthetics of religion.

Learning Outcomes:

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

Recognize religion as a complex and interrelated cultural phenomenon.

Identify key approaches in the development of the academic study of religion

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

Characterise classical positions and their foundational concepts and relate them to their historical, social and philosophical contexts.

Apply concepts to empirical cases.

Critically reflect on their own notion of and interest in religion.

Indicative Reading:

Chryssides, G.D. and Geaves, R., *The Study of Religion. An Introduction to Key Ideas and Methods* (London: Bloomsbury, 2014). Braun, W. & R.T. McCutcheon (eds.), *Guide to the Study of Religion* (London & New York, 2000).

Martin, C., *A Critical Introduction to the Study of Religion* (London: Equinox, 2012). McCutcheon, R.T., *Studying Religion: An Introduction* (London: Equinox, 2007). Rodrigues, H. & Harding, J. S. (eds), *Introduction to the Study of Religion* (London: Routledge, 2009).

Assessment: One 3,000 word essay

Name of Lecturer

Professor Alexandra Grieser