

## **BCRE31 Comparative Religious Ethics in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism**

**Semester: B**

**ECTS Credits: 5**

**Duration: 11 weeks**

**Contact Hours: 22**

**Quota: None**

**Prerequisite subjects: None**

Comparative religious ethics has long been an area of academic interest, one which has acquired greater significance over recent decades. In the contemporary context of global interdependence the comparative study of religious ethics is of great importance since it provides opportunities for mutual understanding and cross-cultural engagement. Using a variety of theoretical, historical, hermeneutical and narrative approaches, comparative religious ethics facilitates an examination of the moral beliefs, values, practices and institutions of the various religious traditions; an interrogation of their apparent similarities and differences and an appreciation of the evolution of, and diversity within, some of world's most influential moral traditions. This module provides an introduction to the comparative study of religious ethics, with an emphasis on the religions of Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. The module will begin with a discussion of the methods and purpose of the comparative study of religious ethics, highlighting the different conceptual and methodological approaches and discussing their relative limitations and strengths. The module will then examine the traditions of Buddhism, Islam and Christianity focusing in each case on i) their conceptualization of the moral life, ii) understandings of the self, iii) of the individual in social and political life and iv) their attitudes to violence. The module will conclude with a case study on *Engaging Sacred Values: Peace making in the Holy Land*.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

recognise the main methodological and conceptual approaches in comparative religious ethics;

assess the limitations and strengths of the various approaches to comparative religious ethics;

understand how different ethical traditions conceptualise the moral life, the self, and the individual in social and political life;

compare, and assess the different conceptualisations of the moral life, self and individual in social and political life across a range of traditions;

analyse and compare the different approaches to violence across a range of religious traditions;

### **Indicative Bibliography**

Fasching, D., *Comparative Religious Ethics: A Narrative Approach to Global Ethics*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2011

Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*, 3rd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Keown, D., *Buddhist Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005

Lovin, R., *An Introduction to Christian Ethics: Goals, Duties, and Virtues*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011

Ramadan, T., *Islamic Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016

Schweiker, W., *The Blackwell Companion to Religious Ethics*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004

**Names of lecturers**

Profs. L. Hogan, Jude Lal Fernando, ISE, and Dr W. Young