University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to Religious Studies I, PG_00200637		
Field of study	Religious Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Andrzej Migda	
	Teachers	dr Andrzej Migda	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives	The student will become familiar with contemporary religious studies, including theories and approaches to understand key research issues and the impact of religion on society. Students will become familiar with religious studies terminology and methodology, which will enable them to actively participate in discussions and allow them to independently search, critically analyze and evaluate information from scholarly studies, and the literature on the subject.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[RELL3_W02] Has structured general knowledge covering terminology, theoretical issues and methodology in the field of the study of culture and religion.	The student possesses an organized, advanced general knowledge encompassing terminology, theoretical issues, and methodology in the fields of cultural and religious studies. They understand the role and importance of the humanities within the broader system of sciences, including their subject-specific and methodological distinctiveness. They are familiar with fundamental humanities terminology and have a basic knowledge of key developments and recent advancements in religious studies. Additionally, the student knows and comprehends essential research methods and tools used in religious studies. They also have structured, in-depth knowledge of linguistic communication	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[RELL3_W01] Has structured knowledge of the place and significance of the humanities within the system of sciences, including their terminology and subject-specific and methodological characteristics.	Can correctly select sources and apply appropriate research methods for the workshop of a religious studies specialist. Is capable of using fundamental theoretical approaches, research paradigms, and concepts specific to religious studies.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[RELL3_U04] Is able to define, explain and correctly use specialist terminology from the fields of culture and religion studies, history and philosophy in oral and written communication, both in academic work and in outreach activities.	He/she is able to define, explain and correctly apply orally and in writing professional terms from the fields of cultural and religious sciences, history and philosophy both in work on selected topics and in popularization activities. Students will be able to use basic theoretical approaches, research paradigms and concepts appropriate to religious studies; they will be able to recognize different types of cultural creations appropriate to religious studies and conduct their critical analysis and interpretation using typical methods in order to determine their meanings, social impact, place in the historical-cultural process.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[RELL3_U01] Is able to appropriately select sources and apply research methods appropriate to the religious studies research framework.	Can define, explain, and correctly use specialized terminology from cultural and religious studies, history, and philosophy—both in speech and writing—while working on selected topics as well as in outreach activities. The student is able to apply basic theoretical approaches, research paradigms, and concepts specific to religious studies. They can identify different types of cultural products relevant to religious studies and conduct their critical analysis and interpretation using standard methods to determine their meanings, social impact, and place in the historical and cultural process.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work

	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[RELL3_K05] Is prepared to perform professional roles responsibly and observe professional ethics, with particular attention to respecting the dignity and freedom of religion of persons belonging to different religious traditions.	He is ready to perform professional roles responsibly and observe the principles of professional ethics, including special care for respecting the dignity and freedom of religion of representatives of different religions. The student knows the extent of his knowledge and skills, understands the need for continuous training and professional development; is open to new ideas and ready to reformulate his position. He is aware of the importance of the cultural heritage of the region, the country and Europe and his own responsibility for its preservation.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

Subject contents

- Theory of Religion, Meta-Religion
- Religion as a Subject of Religious Studies
- Origins of Religion Single-Aspect (Specialized) and Multi-Aspect Definitions of Religion
- Structure of Religion, Typology of Religious Experiences
- The Category of the Sacred Its Significance in Religious Studies
- Cognitive and Neurobiological Sources of Religious Experience
- Religious Anthropology, Religious Cosmology
- Cult, Myth Structure, Ritual, Sacrifice, Verbal Magic, Possession Trance
- Religious Organization, Functions of Religion, Classification of Religious Beliefs, Thanatology of Religion
- The Debate on the Origins of Religion and Its Primitive Form

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Knowledge about the largest religions (history and characteristic features) at high school level.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Completion of a project for credit, written test	55.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	*Oxford Handbook for Religious Studies*, edited by Michael Stausberg and Steven Engler, Oxford 2016.
Supplementary literature	Stark, R., & Bainbridge, W. S. (1987). A Theory of Religion. Bern: Peter Lang. Eliade, M. (1959). *The sacred and the profane*. https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2410655-das-heilige-und-das-profane-vom-wesen-des-religi-sen
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

During the course the following thematic blocks will be realized:

- Basic concepts and definitions of religion
- Structure and elements of religion
- Theology and cosmology and religious anthropology
- Worship and religious practices
- Religious organization
- Origins and functions of religion
- Classification and methodology of research
- Fields and methodology of religious studies
- Schools and trends in religious studies
- Theorists and their concepts
- Contemporary trends and centers of religious studies

Work placement

Not applicable

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