University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Workshop for Science of Religion Students, PG_00200652		
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	2	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Religious Studies -> Institute of Anthropology -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
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	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	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	15	2.0	33.0	50

Subject objectives	
	The aim of the course is to introduce students to the complexity of research methodology in the context of religion and religiosity, with a social science perspective. Students will be introduced to fundamental issues related to the theory of conducting research in religious studies. Key issues such as generalisation, relevance and reliability of research, as well as criteria for evaluating quantitative and qualitative research will be discussed in the course. Participants will be introduced to the importance of religious studies research in relation to other sciences, as well as its specificities both in terms of subject and methodology. In addition, students will develop skills in interpreting scientific texts from the social sciences.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[RELL3_W07] Knows and understands research methods and tools of the religious studies research framework, including methods of analysing and interpreting various cultural products.	He/she knows to an advanced degree research methods and tools of the religious studies specialist's workshop, including methods of analysis and interpretation of various cultural products. Student has basic knowledge of the main developments and major new developments in the field of religious studies. He/she knows and understands basic research methods and tools of a religious studies specialist's workshop. He/she knows and understands basic methods of analysis and interpretation of various cultural products appropriate for the study of religion.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[RELL3_W02] Has structured general knowledge covering terminology, theoretical issues and methodology in the field of the study of culture and religion.	The student has a basic knowledge of the main developments and major new developments in religious studies. He/she knows and understands basic research methods and tools of the religious studies workshop.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW5] implementation of a problem task
[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.	Knows to an advanced degree the research methods and tools of the religious studies workshop, including methods of analysis and interpretation of various cultural products.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[RELL3_U06] Is able to construct well-founded arguments with reference to the views of other authors and formulate conclusions.	The student will independently acquire and consolidate knowledge in a structured and systematic manner using modern techniques to obtain, classify and analyse information, as directed by the supervisor.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[RELL3_U05] Is able to prepare written work in Polish and a selected foreign language, correctly using specialist terminology and academic apparatus.	Has the ability to argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[RELL3_U01] Is able to appropriately select sources and apply research methods appropriate to the religious studies research framework.	The student independently acquires and consolidates knowledge in a structured and systematic manner using modern techniques to obtain, classify and analyse information as directed by the supervisor. Applies basic research skills in Religious Studies using the recommendations and guidance of the supervisor. Is able to use basic theoretical approaches, research paradigms and concepts specific to Religious Studies. Has the ability to argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[RELL3_K01] Critically evaluates their knowledge, demonstrates readiness for its systematic development and seeks expert opinions in situations involving difficulties in independently solving problems.	The student knows the extent of his/her knowledge and skills, understands the need for continuous learning and professional development. He/she is open to new ideas and is ready to reformulate his/her position. Correctly identifies and resolves dilemmas related to the profession of religious studies. Participates in cultural life using a variety of media and its various forms.	[SK5] implementation of a problem task [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

<table>
<tr><td>Subject contents</td><td>• The paradigm of the researcher's worldview neutrality, the principle of objectivity in scientific research.
• Methodology of religious studies research, diversity of perspectives. Research techniques: interviews, participant observation, document analysis.
• Key concepts: sacrum, profane, myth, ritual, symbol, syncretism.
• Fieldwork, preparation for ethnographic research (e.g. etiquette in temples, working with local communities).
• Working on a scientific text, citing religious and secular sources, using analytical tools.
• Analysis of religious phenomena from the following angles: phenomenological, sociological and anthropological.
• The role and functions of myth and ritual in culture. Interpretation of symbols and their contexts.
• Analysis of contemporary religious movements and transformations.
• The ethics of using sensitive materials (e.g. esoteric texts, rituals of closed groups).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prerequisites and co-requisites</td><td>No prerequisites.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment methods and criteria</td><td><table>
<tr><th>Subject passing criteria</th><th>Passing threshold</th><th>Percentage of the final grade</th></tr>
<tr><td>oral statement - colloquium</td><td>55.0%</td><td>60.0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>- completion of a credit work - project or presentation</td><td>55.0%</td><td>40.0%</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Recommended reading</td><td><table>
<tr><td>Basic literature</td><td>All the literature necessary to complete the course has been edited in Polish.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td>All of the supplementary literature useful for the completion of the course has been edited in Polish.</td></tr>
<tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td></td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed</td><td>• How do we define religion? Is there a universal definition?
• Differences between religion, spirituality and worldview.
• Anthropology of religion (e.g. rituals, symbols).
• Sociology of religion (e.g. role of religion in society).
• Psychology of religion (e.g. mechanisms of belief, conversions).
• History of religion (e.g. evolution of belief systems).
• Ethnography (participant observation in rituals).
• Qualitative interviews with believers.
• How do myths shape the identity of religious communities?
• The significance of sacred places, objects and figures.
• Links between religion and politics (theocracies, fundamentalism).
• Monotheism vs. polytheism vs. non-theistic religions (e.g. Buddhism).
• Religious syncretism (e.g. voodoo, santería).
• Influence of religion on art, literature, architecture.
• Religious conflicts.
• Neo-pagan movements, New Age, atheism as a worldview attitude.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Work placement</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr>
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