University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to Religious Studies II, PG_00200653		
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	3.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
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	43.0	75

Subject objectives	
	During the course, students will be introduced to the latest research on religion, which takes into account various points of view and methodological approaches. A key element will be developing the ability to analyze religious experiences through the use of theoretical frameworks and methodologies typical of religious studies. Participants will have the opportunity to deepen their critical thinking skills, using modern theories, which will allow them to better understand the complexity of religious phenomena. Additionally, the course will include an introduction to basic concepts used in the study of religion, which will enable students to effectively define and interpret religious phenomena. Finally, participants will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the issues of classification and methodology used in religious studies, which will provide them with tools for critical analysis and reflection on religious research.

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 has basic knowledge of the place and importance of the humanities in the system of sciences and their specific subject and methodology. Knows the basic terminology of the humanities. Has basic knowledge of the main directions of development and the most important new achievements in the field of religious studies. Knows and understands the basic research methods and tools of the religious studies specialist's workshop. Has structured detailed knowledge of linguistic communication	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[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.	Has structured, advanced general knowledge, including terminology, theoretical issues and methodology in the field of cultural and religious studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [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.	Is able to define, explain and correctly use professional terms in speech and writing in the field of culture and religion, history and philosophy, both in work on selected topics and in popularization activities The student is able to use basic theoretical approaches, research paradigms and concepts specific to religious studies; is able to recognize various types of cultural products relevant to religious studies and conduct their critical analysis and interpretation using typical methods in order to determine their meanings, social impact, place in historical and cultural process.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[RELL3_U01] Is able to appropriately select sources and apply research methods appropriate to the religious studies research framework.	The student is able to use basic theoretical approaches, research paradigms and concepts specific to religious studies.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[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.	The student knows the scope of his/her knowledge and skills, understands the need for continuous education and professional development; is open to new ideas and ready to reformulate his position. Is aware of the importance of the cultural heritage of the region, country and Europe and his own responsibility for it his behavior	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

Subject contents

- Religious studies and the philosophy of religion
- The origins of religious studies (including the dispute over the "paternity" of the discipline)
- Phenomenology as a field of religious studies
- Psychology of religion; sociology of religion; Ethnology of religion; Geography of religion.
- Classic methodological orientations in religious studies
- Psychoanalytic trends in religious studies
- Main trends in contemporary religious studies
- Relationships of religious studies with analytical philosophy, logic and semiotics
- Cognitive religious studies

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Passing the first module of the course during the winter semester.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
oral exam	55.0%	60.0%
Presentation	55.0%	40.0%

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.

	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The following thematic blocks will be covered during the classes: • Basic concepts and definitions of religion • Structure and elements of religion • Theology and cosmology and religious anthropology • Cult and religious practices • Religious organization • Origins and functions of religion • Classification and research methodology • Fields and methodology of religious studies • Schools and fields of study in religious studies • Theorists and their concepts • Contemporary trends and centers of religious studies	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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