University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Phenomenology of Religion, PG_00200668		
Field of study	Religious Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	3.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Zbyszek Dymarski	
	Teachers		

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

familiarizing students with the specificity of the phenomenological approach to religion,

presenting to students the most important issues raised in phenomenological research on religions,

familiarizing students with research methods used in the phenomenology of religion,

comparing religious experiences from different cultural areas,

showing students ways of religious life in various cultural areas,

discussion of various concepts of the sacred,

presenting students with ways of reading texts in the field of phenomenology of religion.

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.	Student has structured 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
[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.	Student has advanced knowledge of the place and importance of humanities in the system of sciences, their terminology, subject and methodological specificity	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[RELL3_U03] Is able to obtain information using bibliographies, archival aids, databases and other sources, and critically analyse, classify, categorise and synthesise it in order to solve problems formulated independently or by others.	Student is able to obtain information and perform critical analysis, classification, categorization and synthesis in order to solve a problem formulated by himself or others.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[RELL3_K03] Is prepared to recognise and respect different perspectives shaped by diverse religious, national and cultural backgrounds.	Student is ready to recognize and respect different points of view determined by different religious, national and cultural backgrounds.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

Subject contents

1. Definitions of religion and other distinctions useful in the area of religious studies,
2. Characteristics of the three basic types of religion,
3. The place of phenomenology of religion among other religious sciences,
4. Different understandings of the term phenomenology of religion,
5. Profiles of leading phenomenologists of religion,
6. Introduction to Edmund Husserl's phenomenological method,
7. A religious man, the problem of the soul and spiritual life,
8. Religious initiation as a special case of rite of passage,
9. Sacred space in various religions
10. The dispute over the sacred
11. The supreme being in various religions,
12. The problem of evil and its symbolism,
13. Taboos in various religions,
14. Sacrificial rituals. Gift and sacrifice,
15. Myth and ritual. The meaning of a symbol, sign, allegory, model,

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
knowledge and argumentation skills; knowledge of the content and meaning of selected books	50.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	• Gerardus van der Leeuw, Fenomenologia religii, Warszawa 1997 (1978); • Geo Widengren, Fenomenologia religii, Kraków 2008; • Mircea Eliade, Traktat o historii religii, Warszawa 1993 (1966); • Mircea Eliade, W poszukiwaniu historii i znaczenia religii, Warszawa 1997; • Mircea Eliade, Aspekty mitu, Warszawa 1998; • Mircea Eliade, Sacrum i profanum, Warszawa 1999; • Rudolf Otto, Świętość, Wrocław 1993; • Rudolf Otto, Mistyka Wschodu i Zachodu, Warszawa 2000; • Max Scheler, Problemy religii, Kraków 1995; • Kazimierz Banka [red.], Religie Wschodu i Zachodu wybór tekstów, Warszawa 1991;
Supplementary literature	• Fiona Bowie, Antropologia religii. Wprowadzenie, Kraków 2008; • Włodzimierz Pawluczuk, Wiara a życie codzienne, Kraków 1980; • Gerardus Van der Leeuw, Religion in Essence and Manifestation: A Study in Phenomenology, New York 1963; • Ninian Smart, The Phenomenon of Religion, New York 1973;
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

e.g.

- discuss the phenomenological method and demonstrate its usefulness in the study of religion;

- discuss the dispute about the sacred.

Work placement

Not applicable

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