

Subject card

Subject name and code	Contemporary Orientations in Religious Studies I, PG_00200710						
Field of study	Religious Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject			2026/2027		
Education level	Master'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			3.0		
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						
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		5.0		40.0	75
Subject objectives	<p>The course aims to familiarise students with contemporary trends in the study of religion, taking into account different theoretical perspectives, methodological approaches and approaches used in religious studies. Participants will become familiar with current theories of religion and their application in the analysis of current religious and social phenomena in different cultural contexts. During the course, students will analyse religion (religiosity, spirituality) as a phenomenon in constant change, shaped by, among other things, scientific and technological development, economic change, globalisation and increased intercultural contact. By discussing selected concepts of religion and examining specific examples of religious and social phenomena, the class will provide an understanding of the dynamics of contemporary religiosity. By combining theory with the analysis of practical cases, the course will enable students to critically reflect on the role of religion in today's globalised world.</p>						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[RELMU2_W08] Has a broad knowledge and understanding of the specific subject matter and methodological characteristics of religious studies and its relationship to other sciences	K_W06 has comprehensive knowledge and advanced knowledge of the main subjects theoretical positions in contemporary religious studies	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[RELMU2_W02] Knows advanced religious studies terminology in Polish	K2_U05 writes essays and monographic studies based on independently selected literature, taking into account the contemporary state of knowledge in the field of religious studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[RELMU2_K01] Understands the scope of his/her knowledge and skills, understands the need for continuous education and professional development.	K_W08 has extensive knowledge and understanding of the subject and methodological specificity religious studies and its relationship to other sciences.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[RELMU2_U02] Samodzielnie zdobywa wiedzę i poszerza umiejętności krytycznego myślenia	K2_U02 independently acquires knowledge and expands critical thinking skills	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[RELMU2_U05] Writes essays/multimedia presentations and monographic papers based on self-selected literature, taking into account the contemporary state of knowledge in religious studies	K_W02 knows advanced religious terminology in Polish	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written	
Subject contents	Introduction to contemporary religious studies; Key theories and methodologies in contemporary religious studies; Religion as an experience of the sacred; Theories of secularisation and desecularisation; New religious movements and non-institutional spirituality; Religion in cultural contexts; Religiosity and the mind: A cognitive perspective; Mystical experiences and neuroscience; Hybridisation and glocalisation of beliefs; Virtual rituals and online communities; Digital spirituality (religion in social media, AI and faith); Religious fundamentalisms and radicalisation; Conflict and interreligious dialogue; Ethics in religious research - challenges in fieldwork; Qualitative research (interviews, participant observation).		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	oral examination	55.0%	55.0%
	Project for the course credit	45.0%	45.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Literature required for final course credit (passing the exam). ONLY selected passages indicated in the course: Rodrigues H., Harding J. S., Introduction to the Study of Religion, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, London New York 2009. Other items from the literature were compiled in Polish.	
	Supplementary literature	Literature required for final course credit (passing the exam). ONLY selected passages indicated in the course. The books and articles necessary for the course have been developed in Polish.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary trends in the study of religion - diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives in religious studies. Current theories of religion - their application in the analysis of religious and social phenomena in different cultural contexts. Religion as a dynamic phenomenon - the impact of science, technology, globalisation and economic and social change on religiosity. Theories of secularisation and desecularisation - transformations of religiosity in the modern world. New religious movements and non-institutional spirituality - alternative forms of religiosity. Religion and culture - analysis of beliefs in cultural context, hybridisation and glocalization. Cognitive and neuroscientific approaches to religion - mystical experiences, mind and belief. Religion in the digital world - virtual rituals, online communities, AI and spirituality. Fundamentalisms and radicalisation - religious conflict and inter-religious dialogue. Methodology of religious studies research - research ethics, qualitative methods (interviews, participant observation) 		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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