

Subject card

Subject name and code	History of beliefs, PG_00211324						
Field of study	Eastern 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 Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish Polish Russian		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Diana Oboleńska, prof. UG				
	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		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to expand knowledge, skills, and competencies in the fields of cultural and religious studies. The lecture aims to familiarize students with the specific nature of religious beliefs in Russia and to foster an awareness of the responsibility to preserve the cultural heritage of Europe, including Central and Eastern Europe. Students will be able to identify and point out various forms of religious belief in Russia, as well as describe and explain selected phenomena.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
	[SWSCHL3_W01] Has a basic knowledge of the specificity of the disciplines related to the Eastern Studies program, in particular linguistics, international relations, and pedagogy, and also understands their significance for the fundamental dilemmas of contemporary civilization		They are familiar with concepts from academic disciplines such as cultural and religious studies, as well as social communication and media studies. He understands the role of languages in the shaping of culture and history.		[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work		
	[SWSCHL3_U16] Is able to plan and organise work both individually and in a team, assuming different roles within it		They possess a strategic overview and the ability to plan the work of a research team, whether acting as a task coordinator or a team member executing the tasks.		[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written		
	[SWSCHL3_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate their own knowledge and skills as well as the content they receive, understands the need for continuous development and the importance of knowledge in problem-solving, and seeks expert opinions when facing difficulties in solving problems independently.		They hold a perspective and are able to define the scope of the knowledge and research skills they have acquired, and they are aware of the need for further skill development in the fields of cultural and religious studies and social communication and media studies.		[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK4] test/exam - oral or written		

Subject contents	The state of research on religious beliefs and ideas. The fantastic worldview of the medieval Rus' inhabitant from a modern perspective. Ancestor worship and concepts of the afterlife. The Baptism of Rus' and its impact on the development of theological thought. 15th–17th-century heresies in Novgorod, Pskov, and Moscow (the Judaizers, the Strigolniki, Moscow freethinkers). Patriarch Nikon's reforms and the ideas of the Old Believers in the 17th century. Apophatic Orthodoxy and the traditional culture of Russian mystical sects. The Khlysty and the Skoptsy. The new liturgy of the spirit: practices, leaders, and adherents. Other sectarian branches and groups. Siberian shamanism. Buryat shamanism. The influence of shamanism on Russian culture—the yurodivy (holy fools).		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	test	51.0%	50.0%
	coursework assignment	51.0%	50.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	A. Panchenko, <i>Khristovshchina and Skopchestvo: Folklore and Traditional Culture of Russian Mystical Sects</i>, Moscow, 2004. A. Etkind, <i>Khlyst (Sects, Literature, and Revolution)</i>, Moscow, 1998. E. Przybył, <i>In the Shadow of the Antichrist: Ideas of the Old Believers in the 17th Century</i>, Kraków, 1999. P. Stawiński, <i>Sects, Schisms, and Heresies in Russia (Dictionary)</i>, Kraków, 2000. E. Przybył, <i>Orthodoxy</i>, Kraków, 2000. O. D. Santagado, P. Capanna, <i>Church Communities, Independent Religious Groups, Sects</i>, Warsaw, 1994. T. Paleczny, <i>Sects: In Search of Lost Paradise</i>, Kraków, 1998. St. Urbańczyk, <i>The Religion of the Pagan Slavs</i>, Kraków, 1974. <i>Encyclopedia of Heresies and Heretics</i>, Poznań, 1992. J. Wasilewski, <i>J ourneys to Hell</i>, Warsaw, 1979. M. Eliade, <i>Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy</i>, trans. K. Kocjan, Warsaw, 2021. E. Thompson, <i>Understanding Russia: Holy Madness in Russian Cultur e</i>, trans. E. Lita, Warsaw, 2019. B. Jastrzębski, <i>Contemporary Buryat Shamans in the Urban Space of Ulan-Ude</i>, Wrocław, 2014.	
	Supplementary literature	K. Moszyński, <i>Folk Culture of the Slavs</i>, vols. 1–3, 2009 reprint (selected excerpts). <i>Dictionary of Slavic Mythology</i>, Moscow 1996. P. Evdokimov, <i>Ages of Spiritual Life: From the Desert Fathers to Our Times</i>, trans. M. Tarnowska, Kraków 1996. C. Wodziński, <i>The Holy Idiot: A Project for Apophatic Anthropology</i>, Gdańsk 2009.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	What constitutes the essence of a mystical sect, and what that of a rationalist one?		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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