ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NET BUREAU

SYLLABUS

SUBJECT: COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RELIGIONS Code No. : 62

(PROPOSED TITLE: RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

UNIT I: STUDY OF RELIGION

a. Religion: Meaning, Definition, Nature, and Scope
b. Theories: Origin of Religion
c. Study of Religion: Aims and objectives
d. Dimensions of Religion: Doctrinal, social, moral code of conduct, devotional praxis
e. Religion's Relationship with other Disciplines: Theology, Ethics, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, Culture and Arts

UNIT II: PRE-HISTORICAL RELIGIOUOS FORMS

a. Early forms of Religious Expression: Mana, Magic, Fetishes, Shamans, Totem, Taboo, Ancestor worship
b. Nature of Holy: Animism, Naturism, Theism, Polytheism, Henotheism, Deism, Monotheism, Pantheism, and Panentheism
c. Task and Objectives: Myths, Rituals, Rites of Passage, Sacraments, Prayers, Festivals, Sacrifices
d. Religion of the Major Civilizations: Indus Valley, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Chinese.
e. Meaning and Nature: Syncretism, Mysticism, Schism, Sect, etc.
f. Zoroastrianism : Beliefs and Practices

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UNIT III: MODERN TRENDS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION

a. Approaches to the Study of Religion: Anthropological, Sociological, Phenomenological, Psychological, Historical, and Experiential.
b. Challenges to Religion: Atheism, Agnosticism, Existentialism, Humanism, Marxism, Rationalism, Materialism, Secularism, Relativism, Globalization, Clash Civilizations.
c. Modern Trends in the Study of Religion: Holistic or all inclusive approach, interfaith understanding and dialogue, co-existence, human rights, empowerment of the Subaltern or social justice, gender equality, ecology and environment, world peace and harmony.

d. Religious Authority: Tradition, magician, diviner, scripture, seer, saint, reformer, founder, prophet

UNIT IV: HINDUISM

a. Nature of Vedic Religion and Culture
b. Vedic Literature – Samhita-s, Aranyak-s, Upanisad-s
c. Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Shaktism, Tantraism, etc.
d. Six Systems of Hindu Philosophy – Sankhya, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Mimamsa, and Vedanta
e. Epics (Ramayana, Mahabharata) and Purana-s
f. Bhakti and Reform Movements of the Medieval Period
g. Modern Reform Movements (Brahmosamaja, Aryasamaja, Ramakrishna Mission, etc.)

UNIT V: JAINISM

a. Sramana Culture and Tirthankara Tradition (Rsabhadeva to Mahavira)
b. Main Sects of Jainism – Digambara and Svethambara
c. Prakrit Agama Literature and Prominent Acaryas
d. Basic Doctrines, Principles and Philosophy
e. Contribution to Arts and Arhitecture
f. Social Aspects of Jainism
g. Contemporary Developments of Jainism
h. Jain Pilgrimage and Jain Festivals

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UNIT VI: BUDDHISM

a. Background, Life and Teaching of Gautama Buddha
b. Pali Tipitaka Literature and Mahayana Sutra-s
c. Main Sects – Hinayana, Mahayana, etc.
d. Basic Doctrines, Principles and Philosophy
e. Contribution to Arts and Architecture
f. Expansion of Buddhism Outside India
g. Social Aspects and Revival of Buddhism

UNIT VII: JUDAISM

a. Origin and Development: Creation, the Call of Abraham, the Call of Moses, the Exodus, the Covenant on Mount Sinai
b. Hebrew Scripture: Pentateuch (Torah), Prophets (Nibium), Writings (Ketubium)
c. Jewish Beliefs: Ten Commandments, Talmud, Midrash, Passover, Messiah, etc.
d. Jewish Celebration: Sabbath, Synagogue Assembly, Passover, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Tabernacles
e. Jewish Ethics: Covenant consciousness, Mosaic Laws, Jubilee stipulations, marriage and family
f. Importance of Jerusalem
g. Major Denomination of Judaism

UNIT VIII : CHRISTIANITY

a. The Life and Message of Jesus Christ
b. The beginning of Christianity and the Sermon on the Mount
c. Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures
d. Main Christian Churches (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant)
e. Important Beliefs and Teachings of Christianity
f. Christian Life: Worship, Rituals, and Mysticism
g. History of Christianity in India
h. Contemporary Trends in Christian Theology

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UNIT IX: ISLAM

a. The social, religious condition of Arabia before the advent of Islam
b. Life of the Prophet Mohammad and the basic teachings of the Quran, the establishment of the Islamic community and the Madina state.
c. Introduction of Hadith and Fiqh and some important Muhaddith (Imam Bukhari, Imam Muslim) and Faqi (Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Shafi, Imam Malki Imam Hanbal)
d. Some important Muslim thinkers: Ali ibn e Hazam, Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, ibn-e-Taimiyah and Shah Waliullah

e. Development of Sufism, some important Sufi order's (Chishtiyah, Qadriayah, Suharwardiyah, Naqsbandiyah, and their impact on society
f. Challenges of modernity and the reform movements among Muslim in India
g. Origin and development of sects: ithna Ashari, Mutazilites and Asharits
h. The contribution of Medieval Islam to Rational sciences, philosophy and fine arts.

UNIT X: SIKHISM

a. Socio-religious milieu and life and mission of Guru Nanak
b. Development of the Sikh Panth (1539-1708)
c. The Sikh Scripture (Sri Guru Granth Sahib) and the Sikh Literature
d. The Sikh beliefs and the code of conduct
e. The Sikh institutions, ceremonies and festivals
f. The Sikh sects and Modern socio-religious movements
g. The Sikh diaspora and Modern Issues

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