

TEO-SAP-123 Christianity and World Religions

SEMESTER: Fall / Winter / Spring / Summer
CREDITS: 3 ECTS (Fall/Spring: 2 hrs. per week; Summer: 30 hours)
LANGUAGE: English
DEGREES: SAPIENS program

Course overview

The course helps to acquire **basic knowledge about the major world religions** and to **critically reflect** about their proposals. This will give clues to deal with **current religious issues** such as dialogue between science and religion, secularization, religion and violence, etc.

This is basic to have a better **understanding of the plurality of humankind**, to **respect** it and to be able to **dialogue** about beliefs and worldviews, as well as being able to **reflect** about own ideas and religious beliefs.

Openness to difference and respect of it is vital in any workplace one may be.

Prerequisites

Level B2 of English language or equivalent. The course will be taught entirely in English.

Course contents

Topics may include

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS

- Science and religion
- Studying religion (approach to the main sciences that study religion from different perspectives)
- Phenomenology of religion
- Diversity of religions (overview and main classifications of religions)

II. STUDY OF THE MAIN WORLD RELIGIONS

- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Islam
- Judaism

III. CHRISTIANITY

- Overview of Christian theology

- Different Christian denominations
- Christianity and Spanish culture

IV. RELIGION TODAY

- Sociology of religion (secularization, new religiosity, fundamentalism, sects...).
- Current issues concerning religion

Bibliography

Due to the varied issues that will be covered in this course, specific bibliography for each one of the topics will be provided at the beginning of the classes.

Grading

This course will be assessed through **several assignments** that will be handed in during term. There will not be an exam.

Each professor will choose the exact activities to adapt to the group, but in every case, there will be **4 or 5 activities**. Those may include:

- A **Portfolio** that includes the **student's personal reflections regarding the course or a particular issue**. Topics that must be covered in it will be provided during the lessons.
- Watching and critical assessment of one or several **TED talks or videos**.
- Reading and critical assessment of an **article/s and discussion about it with the classmates**.
- Comparing and **reflecting on the information** learnt in the class through a chart or mind map.
- A **presentation** of a topic that students would previously have prepared in groups.
- **Tests** that students can do online about some of the course's units.

*Those students who don't pass will have to repeat the failed activities or do new similar ones (that will be indicated by the teacher).

IMPORTANT

According to the General Academic Norms of the Universidad Pontificia Comillas and the Academic Norms of the ICAI School of Engineering, **students are required to attend class**. If a student's **unjustified absences** are more than **15%** of the total number of class sessions, **the student may fail the course**.

Committing any serious academic misconduct, such as plagiarism of previously published material, or copying in the exam or any other graded activity, will imply not being able to pass the course in the ordinary assessment period.

The improper use of ChatGPT or other Generative AI will be considered a serious offense, according to the General Regulations of the University, art. 168.2.e: "carrying out actions aimed at falsifying or defrauding the academic performance evaluation systems". The consequences of this will be "temporary expulsion for up to three months or the prohibition to take an exam in the following exams period after the imposition of the sanction, in one or more subjects in which the student is enrolled, [...] in addition to a failing grade (0) in the corresponding subject, [...] [and] the prohibition to take an exam in that subject in the following exams period".

Misuse will be considered those situations in which certain parts of the work have been developed mostly by ChatGPT or other Generative AI, and those circumstances in which this kind of software has been used without respecting the instructions given by the professor for a specific work. When the student has used Generative AI for any course works that are presented orally or in writing, such as ChatGPT, they must indicate (in the same work if it is in writing, and at the beginning of the oral presentation) how and for what purpose they have used the software, even if it was only used to obtain ideas or lines of research, without converting them into developed text. The same criteria must be applied for images or other types of products. Furthermore, every written content created with Generative AI must be clearly identified as text. The student must also include as additional material (in an annex) the questions and answers of the conversation with Generative AI in order to complete the exercise.