

**Department of
World Religions and Culture**

**Syllabus for BA. Honours
(Integrated Course System)
2015-2020**



University of Dhaka

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Department of World Religions and Culture
Syllabus for B.A Honours
(Integrated Course System)

Sessions: 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-
2019, 2019-2020

B.A. (Honours) degree in World Religions and Culture is a four-year programme. There will be 28 one unit and 8 one fourth unit of a total value of 120 credit consisting of 3000 marks. Students are required to obtain at least D Grade (40 to less than 45 marks) for an Honours degree. A Semester Final Examination will be held at the end of every semester for each course. There will be two Class/Mid-term tests and an Oral Examination in each semester. Distribution of marks is as follows:

Marks distribution for each four credit (one unit) course.

1. Two Class/Mid-term Tests of 15 marks each :
15+15=30 marks
2. Class Attendance and Participation :
5+5=10 marks
3. Semester Final Examination of 3 hour duration :
4X 15= 60 marks

Total Marks : **100**
Total Classes : 60
Total hours : 60
Total Credit Hours : 04 (One credit hour= 15 hours)

Marks distribution for each one Credit (1/4th unit) Course

Class Attendance and Participation for Tutorial : 5
Viva : 20
Total Marks : **25**

First Year B.A Honours
(Examination of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020)

First Semester		
Course No	Course Title	Marks
WRC-H 101	English (Part-I): Basic English	100
WRC-H 102	History of Religion and Culture	100
WRC-H 103	An Introduction to Philosophy	100
	Class Attendance and Participation for Tutorial	05
	Viva	20
	Total	325

Second Semester

Course No	Course Title	Marks
WRC-H 104	English (Part-II): Advance English	100
WRC-H 105	Religious and Cultural Tradition of Islam	100
WRC-H 106	Hindu Religious and Cultural Heritage	100
	Class Attendance and Participation for Tutorial	05
	Viva	20
	Total	325

Second Year B.A Honours
(Examination of 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Third Semester
Any three of the following courses

Course No	Course Title	Marks
WRC-H 201	Buddhism and Its Culture	100
WRC-H 202	Jewish Religious Tradition	100
WRC-H 203	Introductions to Christianity	100
WRC-H 204	Korean Religious Tradition	100
	Class Attendance and Participation for Tutorial	05
	Viva	20
	Total	325

Fourth Semester
Any three of the following courses

Course No	Course Title	Marks
WRC-H 205	Chinese Thought and Culture	100
WRC-H 206	History of South Asia	100
WRC-H 207	Islamic History and Culture	100
WRC-H 208	An Introduction to Psychology	100
	Class Attendance and Participation for Tutorial	05
	Viva	20
	Total	325

Third Year B.A Honours
(Examination of 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Fifth Semester
Any four of the following courses

Course No	Course Title	Marks
WRC-H 301	Some Minor Religions of the World	100
WRC-H 302	History of Europe	100
WRC-H 303	Indigenous Religions of Bangladesh	100
WRC-H 304	Government and Politics	100
WRC-H 305	Sikh Religious Tradition	100
	Class Attendance and Participation for Tutorial Viva	05
		20
Total		425

Sixth Semester
Any four of the following courses

Course No	Course Title	Marks
WRC-H 306	African Religious Tradition and Culture	100
WRC-H 307	Bangladesh Studies	100
WRC-H 308	Sociology	100
WRC-H 309	Cultural Anthropology	100
WRC-H310	Aboriginal Religions of Australia & Pacific Region	100
	Class Attendance and Participation for Tutorial Viva	05
		20
Total		425

Fourth Year B.A Honours
(Examination of 2019 and 2020)
Seventh Semester
Any four of the following courses

Course No	Course Title	Marks
WRC-H 401	Research Methodology	100
WRC-H 402	Women in World Religions	100
WRC-H 403	Geography, Demography and Religion	100
WRC-H 404	Religion, Mass Media and Culture	100
WRC-H 405	Japanese Religion and Culture	100
	Class Attendance and Participation for Tutorial Viva	05
		20
Total		425

Eighth Semester
Any four of the following courses

Course No	Course Title	Marks
WRC-H 406	Comparative Religion	100
WRC-H 407	Religious Beliefs and Practices of America	100
WRC-H 408	Environment and Religion	100
WRC-H 409	Religion, Peace and Conflict	100
WRC-H 410	Interfaith Dialogue and Understanding	100
	Class Attendance And Participation Viva/Presentation	05
		20
Total		425

**First Year B.A. Honours.
First Semester**

WRC-H 101: English (Part-I: Basic English)

- I. Grammar: Tenses, articles, prepositions, subject-verb agreement, clauses, conditionals, word classes. Transformation of Sentences: active-passive transformations, direct & indirect speech.
- II. Common errors in English: Errors that usually occur in sentences, problem with different parts of speech with special reference to verbs; some errors in usage.
- III. Phonetics: IPS symbols; word transcriptions; intonations and stress.
- IV. Vocabulary building: correct and precise diction; affixes; idiomatic expressions; level of appropriateness; colloquial and informal; standard and formal.
- V. Reading Skills: Strategies of Reading - skimming, scanning, predicting, inferring, practicing reading comprehension.
- VI. Writing Skills: Sentences, sentence variety, generating sentences, clarity and correctness of sentences, linking sentences to form paragraph.
- VII. Speaking Skills: Brainstorming, discussing and reporting, extempore speeches.

Recommended Books:

1. Raymond Murphy, *Intermediate English Grammar*
2. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*
3. Imhoof and Hudson, *From Paragraph to Essay*
4. Wren and Martin, *English Grammar and Composition*
5. T.E. Berry, *Common Mistakes in English*
6. John and Lizz Soars, *The New Headway (Elementary)*

WRC-H 102 : History of Religion and Culture

This course is designed to enable the students to understand different religions from historical perspective. Students will be expected to have sound understanding of the meaning of religion and culture. They will have a general knowledge of the origin and development of major religions of the world some knowledge of the historical development of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism. Religions in prehistoric and primitive cultures and representative religions of ancient civilizations, viz. Egypt, Babylonia, Greece and Rome, will be discussed. Students will also be expected to study different theories regarding the origin of religion.

Books Recommended :

1. Toyenbee, Arnold, *A Historian's Approach to Religions*, Oxford, 1956
2. Bleeker, J. and G. Widengren, *Historia Religionum*, 2 Vols, Leiden, 1971
3. Herder, B., *Lectures on the History of Reliigons*, New Delhi, 1986

4. Bianchi, Bleeker and Basuani (eds.), *Problems and Methods of the History of Religion*, Leiden, 1972
5. Smart, Ninian, *The World Religions : Old Traditions and Modern Transformations*, Cambridge, 1989
6. Davies, Brian, *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, Oxford, 1994
7. Noss, John B., *Man's Religions*, New York, 1980
8. Fisher, Mary Pat, *Living Religions*, New York, 1994
9. Ling, Trevor, *History of Religions : East and West*, New York, 1968
10. Radhakrishnan, s., *Eastern Religion and Western Thought*, Oxford, 1940
11. Swain, J.E., *A History of World Civilization*, S. Chand & Company, New Delhi, 1934

WRC-H 103 : An Introduction to Philosophy

The objective of this course is to enable the students to understand the nature and scope of philosophy. Methods of philosophy – dogmatism, criticism and the method of analysis. Relation of Philosophy to science, religion and common-sense. Theories of the origin of knowledge – authoritarianism, rationalism, empiricism, critical theory of Kant, intuitionism. The problem of the possibility of knowledge – skepticism and reactions to scepticism. Theories of truth – correspondence, coherence and pragmatic theories. Theories of evolution – mechanical, teleological, creative and emergent. Theories of reality – idealism and materialism, monism, dualism and pluralism. Freedom of will and immortality of the soul. A brief sketch of some philosophical schools in today's world.

Books Recommended:

1. Edwards, P. and A. Pap, (eds.) : *A Modern Introduction to Philosophy*, New York, 1963
2. Hirst, R.J.(ed.) : *Philosophy*, London, 1968
3. Hospers, J. : *An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis*, London; 1970
4. Joad, C.E.M. : *Introduction to Modern Philosophy*, Oxford, 1953
5. Matin, A. : *An Outline of Philosophy*, Dhaka, 1968
6. Patrick, T.W. : *Introduction to Philosophy*, New York, 1935
7. Taylor, A.E. : *Elements of Metaphysics*, London, 1952
8. Titus, H.H. : *Living Issues in Philosophy*, New York, 1944

**First Year B.A. Honours.
Second Semester**

WRC-H 104 English (Part-II): Advance English

I. Reading Skills: Analyzing and interpreting variety of texts, practicing comprehension from literary and non-literary texts.

II. Writing Skills:

(a) Paragraph writing: Topic sentence, developing paragraphs with specific details and example, paragraph unity and coherence, types of paragraph (descriptive, narrative, cause and effect, listing, compare and contrast, argumentative).

(b) Precis writing

(c) Letter writing: Informal and formal letters

(d) Resume writing

III. Listening Skills: Listening and note taking.

IV. Speaking Skills: Interviews, debates, role play/simulations, Oral presentations.

Recommended Books:

1. Mosback and Mosback, *Practical Faster Reading*
2. Imhoof and Hudson, *From Paragraph to Essay*
3. John and Lizz Soars, *The New Headway* (Intermediate)
4. L. Sue Baugh, *How to Write First-Class Business Correspondence*

WRC-H 105: Religious and Cultural Tradition of Islam

The purpose of the course is to give an interpretation of the Islamic religious tradition from its inception to the present; the message and style of the Qur'an, the

traditions of Prophet Muhammad (SM) and the major beliefs and practices in Islam; the concepts of suffering, eschatology and soteriology; religious ethics and Islamic tradition; concerns for social well-being: economic and human rights; different theological, philosophical and mystical trends in Islam, modern Islamic movements and their relation to the modern world inside and outside the Middle East; aspects of the relationship of Islam with other religions and cultures in both the medieval and modern periods as well as contemporary challenges faced by Muslim populations in Europe and North America.

Books Recommended :

1. Ali, M., *The Religion of Islam*, Lahore, 1950
2. Hamidullah, Muhammad. *Introduction to Islam*, New Delhi, 1992.
3. Smith, Wilfred C. *Islam in Modern History*, Princeton, 1957.
4. Qutb, Mohammad, *Islam the Misunderstood Religion*, Cairo, 1964.
5. Ali, Syed Ameer, *The Spirit of Islam*, London, 1967.
6. Hussain, Athar, *Prophet Muhammad and His Mission*, New Delhi, 1967.
7. Bucaille, Maurice, *The Bible, The Quran and Science*, Paris, 1978.
8. Troll, C.W., *Sayyid Ahmad Khan : A Reinterpretation of Muslim Theology*, New Delhi 1979.
9. Iqbal, M., *Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*, Lahore, 1968.
10. Nasr. Seyyed Hossein, *Ideals and Realities of the Islam*, New York, 1975.
11. Kutb. Sayyid, *Social Justice in Islam*, New York. Octagon Books, 1953.
12. Qureshi M.I., *The Economic and Social System of Islam*, Lahore : Islamic book service 1979.

WR H-106 : Hindu Religious and Cultural Heritage

This course introduces students to the distinguishing characteristics and early forms of Hinduism : the Vedic religion; the classical Hinduism : the way of action, the way of knowledge and the way of devotion, the way of yoga, the concept of soul, God and Brahman, the concept of incarnation, the doctrine of rebirth, concept of suffering, eschatology and soteriology; caste and society; concerns for social well-being; economic and human rights; Hindu ethics of the Upanisads and Bhagavadgita and a brief sketch of six orthodox schools of Indian Philosophy.

Books Recommended:

1. Radhakrishnan, S., *The Hindu View of Life*, Bombay, 1940
2. Swami Nikhilananda, *Hinduism*, Madras, 1968
3. Swami Nirvedananda, *Hindism at a Glance*, Calcutta, 1969
4. Rajagopalachari, C., *Hinduism : Doctrine and Way of Life*, New Delhi, 1959
5. Chatterjee, S.C and Dutta, D.M., *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*, University of Calcutta, 1960
6. Basu, Durga Das, *Essence of Hinduism*, New Delhi, 1990
7. Swami Yatiswarananda, *Reflections on Hinduism*, Calcutta, 1990
8. Jagannathan, Shakunthala, *Hinduism : An Introduction*, Bombay, 1985
9. Sen Gupta. Shitikantha (ed) : *Mahanambrater Panchti Bhasan*, Dhaka, 1990
10. Basu, Durgadass, *Hindu Dharmar Sartattva*, Calcutta, 1990

Second Year B.A Honours Third Semester Any three of the following courses

WRC-H 201 : Buddhism and Its Culture

This course introduces students to the rise and development of Buddhism; life and teachings of Gautama Buddha : the Four Noble Truths, the doctrine of dependent origination of things, the doctrine of karma and rebirth, the doctrine of universal change, the doctrine of no-soul, eschatology, soteriology; contribution of Buddhism, concerns for social well-being; economic and human rights; Buddhist ethics; early Buddhism and the Theravada tradition, the Mahayana and Tantricism; Buddhist philosophical schools with special reference to Yogacara Idealism and Madhyamika Sunyavada; Religious Rituals, Traditions and Festivals, Art and Iconography of Buddhism, Buddhism in the contemporary world; Buddhism in Western thought and modern science, Buddhism in Bangladesh.

Books Recommended :

1. Humphreys, C., *Buddhism*, London, 1974
2. Pande, G.C., *Studies in the Origin of Buddhism*, Delhi, 1983
3. Joshi, L.M., *Studies in the Buddhist Culture of India*, Delhi, 1967
4. Thera, N.M., *The Buddha and His Teachings*, Colombo, 1973
5. Saddhatissa, H., *The Buddha's Way*, London, 1971
6. Sangharakshita, *A Survey of Buddhism, Its Doctrines and Methods Through the Ages*, London, 1987

7. Dasgupta, S.M., *An Introduction to Tantric Buddhism*, Calcutta, 1974
8. Murti, T.R.V., *The Central Philosophy of Buddhism*, London, 1980
9. Bechert, H., and Gombrich, R. (eds.) *The World of Buddhism*, London, 1948
10. Chakma, N.K., *Buddha Tar Dharma O Darshan*, Dhaka, 1996
11. Chakma, N.K., *Buddhism in Bangladesh and Other Papers*, Dhaka, 2007

WRC-H 202: Jewish Religious Tradition

This course introduces the religious tradition of the Jews from its ancient roots to the present; focuses on the nature of God, Ten Commandments, the nature of human sufferings and emancipation, the Jewish thinkers, books, movements of Judaism through its four main periods: biblical, rabbinic, medieval and modern; concerns for social well-being: economic and human rights.

This course also considers some philosophical issues: Spinoza and the origins of modern Judaism, Zionism, liberal democracy, and biblical criticism; Nietzsche and the problem of radical historicism; religious ethics and Jewish tradition; Judaism and religious pluralism.

Books Recommended :

1. Jacobs, Louis, *The Jewish Religion : A Companion*, Oxford, 1995
2. Grabbe, Lester L., *An Introduction to First Century Judaism : Jewish Religion and History in the Second Temple Period*, Edinburgh, 1996
3. Kaplan, M.M., *The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion*, Detroit, 1994

4. Mattuck, Israel, *Jewish Ethics*, Hutchinson, 1953
5. Herberg, Will, *Judaism and Modern Man*, New York, 1970
6. Kaplan, M.M., *Basic Values in Jewish Religion*, New York, 1970
7. Scholem, Gershom, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, New York, 1946
8. Falk, Z., *Law and Religion : The Jewish Experience*, Jerusalem, 1981
9. Silberstein. L.J., *Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective*, New York, 1993
10. Wilson, Rodney, *Economics, Ethics, and Religion: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Economic Thought*, New York. 2007

WR-H 203: Introductions to Christianity

Introduction: The background and Beginnings of Christianity

1. Beliefs: Creeds, The Apostles and the Nicene Creeds, Jesus Christ: His Life and His Major Teachings, Salvation, Holy Trinity, Sacred Scriptures and Tradition, Eschatology.
 2. Worship and Liturgy: Sacraments, Liturgical calendar, Symbols, Prayers, Rites and Rituals, Religious Festivals, Devotion to Mary and Saints.
 3. History of the Church: Early Church and Christological Councils, Early Middle-Ages, High and Late Middle-Ages, Protestant Reformation and Counter-Reformation, Post-Enlightenment.
 4. Major Denominations: Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican, Restorationists and others
 6. Christian Culture, Heritage and Pilgrim
 7. Ecumenism and Dialogue
 8. Christian Ethics
 9. Criticism and Apologetics
- Conclusion

Books Recommended:

1. Anderson, J.N.D., *Christianity and Comparative Religion*, London, 1973
2. Barclay, W., *Jesus as They Saw Him*, London, 1977
3. Comby, J., *How to Read Church History*, Vols. 1&2, London, 1985
4. Daughters of St. Paul, ed., *The Catechism of Modern Man*, Boston, 1968
5. Dillistone, F.W., *Christianity and Symbolism*, London, 1955
6. Ratzinger, J., *Introduction to Christianity*, New York, 1969
7. Manson & Neil, *The Life of Christ in His Church*, Cleveland Ohio, 1963
8. McBrien, R.P., *Catholicism*, Minneapolis, 1981
9. Rahner, K., *Foundations of Christian Faith*, London, 1978
10. Staffner, H., *The Significance of Jesus Christ in Asia*, Gujarat, 1985

WRC-H 204: Korean Religious Tradition

The purpose of this course is to introduce the religious traditions of Korea from the ancient period to the present. Topics include : Shinkyo—the origin of the world, the worship of the ancestors and the Dankun Deity; the Sinkyo religion of Baekje, the conciliation of Sinkyo and Taoism, mixture of Taoism and Buddhism, syncretism of Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism; foundation of Korean Buddhism; its golden age and anti-Buddhist movements; Seon religion and Chondogyo; impact of other religions of the world on the traditional religions of Korea, and the new religious movements.

Books Recommended :

1. Kim, Uk Whang, *A History of Religion of Korea*, Daeji Moonhwa-sa, 1963
2. Ha, T. and G.K. Mintz (trans.) *Samguk Yusa : Legends and Histories of the Three Kingdoms of Ancient Korea*, Seoul, 1972
3. Cook, F.H., *Hua-Yen Buddhism*, Philadelphia, 1977
4. De Bary, W. Theodore and JaHyun Kim Mabash, *The Rise of Neo-Confucianism in Korea*, New York, 1985
5. Bechert, H., and R. Gombrich, (eds.) *The World of Buddhism*, London, 1984
6. Creel, H.G., *Chinese Thought*, London, 1962
7. Fenton, John Y. and others, *Religions of Asia*, New York, 1983
8. Chan Wing-Tsit and others, *The Great Asian Religions: An Anthology*, London, 1969
9. Kim, Young Oon, *World Religions*, vol. 1, New York 1976
10. Rendall, Laurel, *Religion and Ritual in Korean Society*, California, 1987

Second Year B.A Honours

Fourth Semester

Any three of the following courses

WRC-H 205 Chinese Thought and Culture

The students will be expected to have a thorough knowledge of the origin and development of religions in China from the earliest times to the present. Topics include: pre-Confucian elements. Confucianism, ancient Confucian philosophers, neo-Confucianism, Taoism: Taoist occultism and popular beliefs, Chinese response to early Buddhist teachings. Buddhist contribution to Chinese life and culture.

Books Recommended :

1. Chan, Wing-tsit, *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*, Princeton, 1963
2. Bilsky, Lester J., *The State Religion of Ancient China*, 2 vols., New York, 1963
3. Confucius, *Analects*, (tr) D.C. Lau, London, 1979
4. Lao Tzu, *Tao te Ching*, (tr) D.C. Lau, London, 1978
5. Maspero, Henri, *Taoism and Chinese Religion*, London, 1981
6. Fenton, John Y. and et al. (eds.) *Religions of Asia*, New York, 1983
7. Smart, Ninian, *The Religious Experience*, New York, 1001
8. Carmody, D L Land C., J., *The Story of World Religions*, California, 1988

9. Chan, Wing-tsit and et al., *The Great Asian Religions : An Anthology*, London, 1969
10. Smart, Ninian, *The World Religions : Old Traditions and Modern Transformation*, Cambridge, 1993

WRC-H 206 : History of South Asia

This course is designed to enable the students to understand Indian history from its ancient period to the present. This course will include the following issues:

- I. Pre-historic races and culture in India
- II. The Indus Valley Civilisation-Harapa and Mohenjo-Daro
- III. The Vedic age-Aryan, Vedic Literature, political, social, religious and economic condition of the Vedic age.
- IV. The Epic Age: The *Ramayana*, The *Mahabharata*
- V. The Religious movements of the sixth century B.C - the rise of Jainism and Buddhism
- VI. The rise of Magadha : Chandragupta, Asoka and his Dhamma.
- VII. Kaniska: His Religion and Rise of Mahayana Buddhism.
- VIII. The Gupta Empire - The Revival of Hinduism
- IX. The rise of Islam - India on the Eve of Muslim Conquest
- X. Social Cultural Religious History of Muslim during Sultani Period.
- XI. India Under the Mughals - Social, Cultural & Religious History of the Mughals (the Bakti Movement, the rise of Sikhism).
- XII. India Under the British Rule
- XIII. Social and religious reformations in India during the 19th & 20th Century.

Books Recommended:

1. Metcalf, Thomas R., *Concise History of India*, Cambridge University Press, 2001
2. Wolpert., Stanley A. *A New History of India*, Oxford University Press, 2004
3. Robb, Peter., *A History of India*, Palgrave Mac Millan, 2002
4. Stanley Wolpert, *A New History of India*, Oxford University Press, 2003
5. Thapar, Romila, *A History of India, Vol. I*, Penguin USA, 1999
6. Hansraj Dr., *Advanced History of India*, Surjeet Publications, Delhi, 1999
7. Mahajan V.D., *Ancient India*, S. Chand & Company Ltd, New Delhi, 1994
8. K.T. Wallbank Walter and Alastair M. Taylor, *Civilization : Past and Present*, Scott, Foresman and company, Chicago, 1994
9. Burton Stein, *A History of India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1998

WRC-H 207: Islamic History and Culture

The course is designed to acquire a fair knowledge on Islamic history and culture from the life time of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) to date. Topics included under this course:

1. Socio-economic, religion-political and cultural conditions of Pre-Islamic Arabia
2. Biography of the Prophet, Muhammad (pbuh): His activities in Mecca before Hijrah, Prophet's Hijrah to Medinah, Charter of Medinah, Important battles (Badr, Uhud, Khandaq, Tabuk, Hunayan & Muta) and his War Policy, Prophet's policy towards the Jews and Christians, Treaty of Hudaibiah, Conquest of

Mecca, Farewell Pilgrimage and historic speech towards human rights, Various reforms of the Prophet, Prophet as a Nation-builder, as well as Prophet's place in history.

3. Khulafa-i-Rashedin: Hazrat Abu Bakr (R) as the saviour of Islam, Hazrat Umar (R) as a role model of social welfare state and his reformation & steps for the formation Islamic theocratic states, Hazrat Uthman – the beginning of civil disturbance in Islam, Hazrat Ali (R)-the beginning of civil war in Muslim community (Battle of Camel, Siffin & Nahrawan), Administration-Society-Culture-Education and urbanization under Khulafa-I-Rashedin
4. Umayyad Dynasty: Expansion of Muslim empire and the formation of Arab civilization.
5. Abbasid Dynasty: Patronization of scientific knowledge, its expansion, and social & cultural system under their rule.
6. Muslim Spain: Islam and Arab Culture in Europe, Patronization of knowledge and toleration towards other faiths.
7. Mongol Rule and other pity independent dynasties in different areas of Muslim lands
8. Ottoman Empire and its contribution to human civilization
9. Occupied Muslim lands under European colonial powers and modernization process in administration, education, social, cultural and political systems.
10. Modern Muslim World up to date: Islamic world views to such modern concepts as humanism, secularism, democracy, socialism, capitalism, communism, free market economy and globalization process.

Books Recommended:

1. Ameer Ali, Syed., *The Spirit of Islam*, London, 1955
2. Arnold, T.W. - *The Preaching of Islam*, Lahore, 1965
3. Gibb, H.A.R., - *Studies on the Civilization of Islam*, London, 1962
4. Guillaume, A.- *Life of Muhamad*, London, 1955
5. Hitti, P.K., - *History of the Arabs*, London & New York, 1961
6. Musain, Haykal - *The Life of Muhammad*, American Trust Pub., 1976
7. Lewis, Bernard and Holt, P.M. (ed.) - *Cambridge History of Islam*, London, 1970
8. Muir, W. - *The Caliphate, Its Rise, Decline and Fall*, London, 1898
9. Shaban, M.A. - *Islamic History : A New Interpretation*, London, 1971
10. Zaidan, J. - *Umayyads and Abbasids*, New Delhi, 1981
11. Watt, W.M. - *A History of Islamic Spain*, Edinburgh, 1965
12. Imam Uddin, S.M. - *Some Aspects of Socio-Economic and Cultural History of Muslim Spain, (711-1492)*, Leiden, 1965

WRC-H 208 : An Introduction to Psychology

The course focuses on nature of psychology as a science, methods of psychology; scope of psychology, psychological basis of behaviour; the nervous system, motivation, emotion, conflict and adjustment, mental health and re-adjustment techniques, attention, perception, learning, remembering and forgetting, intelligence, testing personality.

Books recommended:

1. Hilgard, E.R. : *Introduction to Psychology*, New York, 1979
2. Morgan, C.T., and R.A. King : *Introduction to Psychology*, New York, 1960
3. Thouless, R.H., *Intorduction to the Psychology of Religion*, Cambridge, 1961
4. Fuller Andrew R., *Psychology and Religion*, Rowman & Littlefield Pub. Inc., 1994
5. Schultz, Duane P., Sydney Ellen Schultz, *History of Modern Psychology*, Thomson Lrng Harcourt, 2004
6. Gun R. Semin/Klaus Fiedler, *Applied Social Psychology*, Sage Publications, 1996
7. Kosslyn, Stephen M., Robin S., Rosenberg, *Fundamentals of Psychology*, Pearson Allyn Bacon Inc, 2003
8. Zimbardo, Phillop G., Ann L. Weber, Robert L. Johnson, *Psychology*, 1999

Third Year B.A Honours

Fifth Semester

Any four of the following courses

WRC-H 301: Some Minor Religions of the World

This course is projected on the basis of four geographical blocks that concerns the quest for the diverse socio-historical roots of the origin, subsequent developments, culture, philosophy and doctrine of some minor religions of the world in a view of enabling the students to promote a thorough understanding on the under-mentioned traditions:

The Southeast Asian Syncretistic Tradition

Dao Cao Dai: History and Philosophy, a Vietnamese Spiritism and Spiritual Directions, Teachings, Beliefs and Practices, the Three Periods of Revelation and Salvation, the Cao Dai Canon, Organizational Structure, Branches, Demographics

The Middle Eastern Traditions

Zoroastrianism: History, Prophet Zoroaster and His Vision, Major Characteristics, Principal Beliefs and Practices, Relation to Other Religions and Cultures, Religious texts, Demographics

Baha'i Faith: History and Philosophy, Bahai Administration, International Plans, Beliefs: God, Religion, Human Beings; Teachings: Social Principles, Mystical Teachings, Covenant; Canonical Texts; Demographics; and Social Practices: Laws, Marriage, Work, Places of Worship, Calendar, Symbols, Socio-economic Development, United Nations; Persecution

The Indian Tradition

Jainism: Early History, Philosophy and Culture, Major characteristics, Jain Ethics, Jain Beliefs, Ideals, Ideologies and Practices, Jain Sects and Schools, Jain

Monastic Discipline, Jain Yoga and Mysticism, Pilgrimage and Holy Places

Books Recommended

1. Gobron Gabriel, *History and Philosophy of Caodaism*, California, USA, reedited in 2010.
2. Blagov Sergei, *Vietnamese Traditionalism and Its Leap into Modernity*, New York, 2001.
3. Blagov Sergei, *The Cao Dai: A New Religious Movement*, Moscow, 1999.
4. Oliver Victor Lloyd, *Caodaism: A Vietnamese Example of Sectarian Development*, Syracuse University, Ph.D., 1972.
5. Werner Jayne Susan, *The Cao Dai: The Politics of A Vietnamese Syncretic Religious Movement*, UMI Dissertation Services, Michigan, 1994.
6. *Cao Dai A Collection of Various Papers* from 1970 to 2011, Published by Cao Dai Overseas Missionary, California, USA, 2012.
7. Boyce Mary, *Zoroastrians-Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*, London, 1979.
8. Masani P. R., *The Religion of The Good Life-Zoroastrianism*, London, 1931.
9. Chatterji, Pritibhushn, *Studies in Comparative Religion*, Calcutta, 1971 (Recommended for Zoroastrianism and Jainism).
10. Tiwari Kedar Nath, *Comparative Religion*, Delhi, 1983 (Recommended for Zoroastrianism and Jainism).
11. Esslemond J.E., *Bahauallah and the New Era*, New Delhi, 1978.
12. Conow Haff, *The Bahai Teachings A Resurgent Model of the Universe*, Oxford, 1990.
13. Faizi Gloria, *The Bahai Faith: An Introduction*, Illinois, 1970.
14. Mehmood Muhammad, *Baha'is of Bangladesh: A Short History of the Baha'I Religion and Its Community in Bangladesh*, Kindle Publications of Amazon.com

15. Dundas Paul, *The Jains*, London and New York, 1992.
16. George Johann, *The Indian Sects of the Jains*, London, 1903.
17. Jain Jyoti Prasad, *Religion and Culture of Jains*, New Delhi, 1944.
18. Sanghvi Jayantibhai S. *A Treatise on Jainism*, Ahmedabad, 1987.
19. Kamal Muni Uttam Jain, *Jain Sects and Schools*, Delhi, 1975.
20. Roy Ashim Kumar, *A History of the Jains*, New Delhi, 1984.
21. Singhi N.K., (ed), *Ideal, ideology and Practice: Studies on Jainism*, Jaipur, 1987.
22. Talib Gurbachan Singh (ed), *Jainism*, Patiala, 1975.

WRC-H 302 : History of Europe

This course is an introduction to the history and civilization of Europe. The emphasis is on the dissolution of the classical Greco-Roman world into three kindred civilizations – Byzantium, Islam and Latin Christendom, the formation of a new civilization in the West and the beginning of the eventual rise to world predominance of the West. This course includes the following topics:

- II. The Greek Civilization
- III. Rome: early Rome, from city state to world conqueror, from Republic to Empire, fall of Rome, the rise of the Church, the Rise of Christianity.
- IV. The Byzantine Empire : the Eastern Roman Empire, Social & Religious life of Eastern Roman Empire.
- V. The Muslim conquest of the Byzantine Empire
- VI. Feudalism, the Age of Chivalry, the Manorial System
- VII. The Medieval Church : How the Church came to be universal, the Church's methods of salvation, How the Church enforced its teachings, the

triumph of medieval Church, the conflicts between Church and State, the Crusades the decline of the medieval Church, the Religious Reformation, Renaissance.

Books Recommended:

1. Birdsall S. Viault, *Modern European History*, Mc Graw-Hill Companies, 1995
2. Marshall, H.E., *A Short Sketch of European History*, Frederick A Stokes
3. Norton, Donald H., *The Essentials of European History*, Research & Education Association, 1997
4. Burton June K.; Carolyn W. White, *Essays in European History*, University Press of American, 1996
5. Howard Michael, *War in European History*, Oxford University Press, 1976
6. Hourani Albert, *Islam in European Thought*, Cambridge University Press
7. Webster, Hutton : *Early European Civilization*, D.C Heath & Co. Boston, 1933
8. Burrell, Sidney A., *Handbook of Western Civilization : Beginnings to 1700*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1965
9. Childe V. Gordon., *The Dawn of European Civilization*, Columbia University Press 2004
10. Wallbank T. Walter., Alastair M.Taylor, *Civilization: Past and Present*, Scott, Foresman and Company, Chicago, 1994

WRC-H 303 : Indigenous Religions of Bangladesh

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to the religious beliefs and practices of the tribal people of Bangladesh. Students will be expected to be acquainted with the ethnographic background of the concerned tribes. They will be required to know the basic tenets of the religions; and the age-old traditional beliefs

and rituals associated with their major life cycles: birth, marriage and death. They will also be learning the beliefs and rituals associated with their socio-economic activities.

Books Recommended:

1. Chakma, Niru Kumar., *Chittagong Hill Tracts and Buddhism*, Dhaka, Parbattya Bouddha Sangha, 1983
2. Chakma, Sugata., *Rangamati*, 1983
3. Hutchinson, R.H., *An Account of the Chittagong Hill Tracts*, Calcutta, 1906
4. Dewan, Biraj Mahon., *Chakma Jatir Itibritta*, Rangamati 1969
5. Risley, H.H., *The tribes and Castes of Bengal*, Calcutta, 1891
6. Hockings, Paul (ed.), *Encyclopedia of World Cultures*, Vol. 3, Boston, 1992
7. Sattar, Abdus., *Tribal Culture in Bangladesh*, Dhaka, 1975
8. Sattar, Abdus., *Arannya Janopoda*, Dhaka, 1975
9. Ahsan, Ali, *Santals of Bangladesh*, Dhaka, 1995
10. Selina, Begum., *The Marmas of Bangladesh*, Dhaka, 1992

WR-H 404 : Government and Politics

The course is designed to enable students to have a general knowledge regarding the government any politics. Topics include:

1. Political Theory : Nature and meaning ; State ; Theories of the origin of the state. Right ; Basis of Social & political obligation, Nation, Nationalism.
2. Principle of political organization : Democracy & Dictatorship, Constitution, Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, political parties, public opinion, U.N.O.

3. Government and politics in Bangladesh : Growth and development of constitution, Bangladesh constitution of 1972 and its amendment, political system of Bangladesh, Major trends of development.
4. U.K. Nature of British Constitution, convention, monarchy, parliament, cabinet, political parties.
5. U.S.A. Features of U.S.A. political system, president, congress, Judiciary, political parties.

Books Recommended:

1. Aristotle : *Politics*, trans. Ernest Barker, Oxford, 1946
2. Barker, E., *Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle*, Russell, New York, 1959
3. Barker, E., *Principles of Social and Political Theory*, Oxford, 1951
4. Harmaon, M.J. : *Political Thought form Plato to the Present*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1964
5. Rousseau, J.J.: *The Social Contract*, trans. G.D.H. Cole, London, 1973
6. Sabine, G.H: *A History of Political Theory*, Harper, London, 1952
7. History ; J.H. Carlton, Hayes Essays on Nationalism
8. J.A. Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy
9. C.D. Burns, *Political Ideals Maciver*
10. F. Watking, The Political Tradition of the west syed Mukshud Ali, Political Science

WRC-H 305 : Sikh Religious Tradition

This course intends to give the students a clear idea of Sikh religious teachings, practices and institutions: socio-cultural concept of the origin of Sikhism, structure and character of Sikh society, Sikh Scriptures: the Guru

Grantha and other Sikh texts; special emphasis will be placed on the developments in Sikh community formation from Guru Nanak to Guru Govind Singh; religious ethics and the Sikh tradition; concerns for social well-being: economic and human rights. Sikhism, Nathism and Vaisnavism will be compared. Hindu, Muslim and secular influences on the emergence and later history of Sikh community will be assessed.

Books Recommended:

1. Dhillon, Dalbir Singh., *Sikhism, Origin and Developemnt*, New Delhi, 1987
2. Mcleod, W.H., *Sikhism*, London, 1973
3. Singh, Daljeet, *The Sikh Ideology*, New Delhi, 1984
4. Kaur, Kawaljit-Singh., *Sikhism*, Hove, 1995
5. Singh, Daljeet, *Sikhism : A Comparative Study of its Theology and Mysticism*, New Delhi, 1979
6. Kohli, Surindar Singh, *Sikhism and Major World Religions*, Amritsar, 1995
7. Roy, Niharranjan ed., *Sikhism and Indian Society*, Simla, 1967
8. Sidhu, Gurbachan Singh, *Introduction to Sikhism*, 1973
9. Singh, Sher, *Philosophy of Sikhism*, Amritsar, 1980
10. Ahaluwalia, Jasabira Singha, *The Sovereignty of the Sikh Doctrine : Sikhism in the Perspective of Modern Thought*, New Delhi, 1983

Sixth Semester
Any four of the following courses

WRC-H 306 : African Religious Tradition

This course introduces African traditional religions. Topics include: approaches to the study of African religions in the 19th and 20th centuries; similarities and differences in regard to the cosmology and creation, myths, God and deities, divination, rites and rituals, witch-craft, ancestor cults, and ideas of destiny and fate, the interaction of African traditional religions with Christianity and Islam; indepth studies of particular African religions, African religions and social psychosis.

Books Recommended :

1. Magesa, L., *African Religion : The Moral Traditions of Abundant Life*, NY, 1997
2. Westerlund, David., *African Religion in African Scholarship : A Preliminary Study of the Religious and Political Background*, Stockholm, 1985
3. Mbiti, John S., *Introduction to African Religion*, Oxford, 1992
4. Parinder, Geoffrey., *West African Religion : a study of the beliefs and practices of Akan, Ewe, Yoruba, Ibo, and Kindred Peoples*, London, 1969
5. Fuller, L., *A Missionary Handbook on African Traditional Religion*, London, 1994
6. Ranger, T.O., *The Historical Study of African Religion*, London, 1972
7. Mbiti, John S., *Prayer and Spirituality in African Religion*, Bedford Park, 1978
8. Verryyn, T.D., *The Role of Women in Traditional African Religion*, Pretoria, 1972
9. Uka, E.M., *Readings in African Traditional Religion*, Bern, 1991
10. Parrinder, Geoffrey., *African Traditional Religion*, Westport, 1976

WRC-H 307 : Bangladesh Studies

1. Origin of the name Bangladesh, Bangla language and peoples of Bangladesh
2. Roots of Bangladesh: A Ancient Bengal up to 1204: major historical developments emphasizing exclusiveness of southeastern Bengal (now Bangladesh)
B: Medieval Bengal 1204-1757 Muslim rule in Bengal
C: Modern Bengal: 1757-1947. British rule: 2 phases: 1757-1857/1858-1947
3. Background of Bangladesh: four conceptual issues related to the emergence of Bangladesh
4. Background of Bangladesh: Political circumstances 1947-1971
5. A: The liberation war: Internal perspective
B: The liberation war: External perspective
6. Culture of the peoples of Bangladesh.
7. Religions in Bangladesh
8. Bangladesh Constitution: Main Features and The Amendments
9. Politics and Governance
10. Education
11. Ethnic politics: The case of Chittagong Hill Tracts.
12. Bangladesh and SAARC
13. Bangladesh and the World

Books Recommended:

1. Jahan, Rounaq, *Bangladesh: promise and performance*, London: zed Books; Dhaka: University Press, 2001
2. Sarkar Jadunath (ed.), *The history of Bengal. Vol. 2, Muslim period, 1200-1757* ; Ramna, Dacca: University of Dacca, 1948
3. Ahmed A.F. Salahuddin and Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury (eds), *Bangladesh, National Culture, and Heritage: an introductory reader*, Dhaka: Independent University, Pathak Shamabesh, 2004
4. Newton Alex, Betsy Wagenhauser and Richard Plunkett (eds.), *Bangladesh*, Lonely Planet Publications, London, November 24, 2000
5. Stephen May, Tariq Modood and Judith Squires (eds.), *Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Minority Rights*, Cambridge University Press, NY& London, November 11, 2004
6. Oommen T.K., *Pluralism, Equality and Identity: Comparative Studies*, OUP India, January 17, 2002
7. Richard Sisson and Leo E. Rose, *War and secession: Pakistan, India, and the Creation of Bangladesh*, New Delhi: Vistaar, 1990
8. Glassie, Henry, *Art and Life in Bangladesh*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997
9. Mascarenhas, Anthony, *Bangladesh: a legacy of blood*, London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1986
10. Bahree, Patricid, *Pakistan and Bangladesh: a handbook for teachers*, London: Extramural Division, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 1982

WR-H 308 : Sociology

The course focuses on definition, nature, value and scope of Sociology; Relation of Sociology to other disciplines. Some social concepts – Family and the pattern of intimate relationship, society, culture and socialization, individual and society, society and relation, community, association, institution, social group, custom and folkways, social control social institutions, culture and civilization, social stratification.

Social Change – Evolution, progress and development; theories of social change, meaning and conditions of social development; nature of social evolution; aspects of social progress and hindrances of social progress; Recent trends of social changes in Bangladesh. Social problems – causes, nature, and remedies of some main problems of Bangladesh.

Books Recommended:

1. Bogardus, A.E.: *Development of Social Thought*, New York, 1960
2. Bottomore, T.B.: *Sociology*, London, 1962
3. Cohen, P.S.: *Modern Social Theory*, London, 1968
4. Ginsberg, M.: *Essays in Sociology and Social Philosophy*, London, 1968
5. Hobhouse, L.T.: *Social Development*, London, 1928
6. Khan, F.R.: *Principles of Sociology*, Dhaka, 1969
7. Koenig, S.: *Sociology : An Introduction to the Science of Society*, New York, 1965
8. Maciver, R.M. and Page, C.H.: *Society : An Introductory Analysis*, London, Macmillan, 1965

WRC-H 309 : Cultural Anthropology

The course introduces the concept of culture in anthropology; culture as an adaptive system; the relationship between culture, individual & society. Language and communication, kinship & descent; marriage, family & community. Economic system & anthropology; relationship between anthropology, politics & power; scope of political anthropology, concept of nationalism; challenges of indigenous anthropology & nationalism: concept of globalization, sociology and ICTB (Information and Communication Technology for Development). Concept of religion; religion as a cultural system & system of beliefs; beliefs & practices; ritual; ceremonies and their functions; theories on origin & development of religion. Anthropology & contemporary world; theories in anthropology; schools of anthropology: evolutionary, infusionists, functionalists & structuralists.

Books Recommended:

1. Kottak, C. P., *Cultural Anthropology*, Toronto: Mc Graw Hill, 2000
2. Haviland, W. A., *Cultural Anthropology*, New York, 1999
3. Serona Nanda, *Cultural Anthropology*, Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1984
4. Angela P. Cheater, *Social Anthropology: An Alternative Introduction*, Unwin Hyman, 1989
5. Lucy Mair, *An Introduction to Social Anthropology*, Clarendon Press, 1984
6. Adam Kuper, *Anthropologists & Anthropology*, Penguin Books, 1975
7. Robin Fox, *Kinship & Marriage*; Penguin Books, 1984

8. Morgan, L.H., *Ancient Society*; World Publishing, 1993
9. Honigmann, J. John., *The Development of Anthropological Ideas*, The Dorsey Press, 1979
10. Kottak, C. P., *Anthropology*, Toronto: Mc Graw Hill, 2002
11. Gidden, A., *Sociology*, Polity Press, UK, 2006

WRC-H 310 : Aboriginal Religions of Australia & Pacific Region

This course introduces African traditional religions. Topics include: approaches to the study of African religions in the 19th and 20th centuries; similarities and differences in regard to the cosmology and creation, myths, God and deities, divination, rites and rituals, witch-craft, ancestor cults, and ideas of destiny and fate, the interaction of African traditional religions with Christianity and Islam; indepth studies of particular African religions, African religions and social psychosis.

Books Recommended :

1. Magesa, L., *African Religion : The Moral Traditions of Abundant Life*, NY, 1997
2. Westerlund, David, *African Religion in African Scholarship : A Preliminary Study of the Religious and Political Background*, Stockholm, 1985
3. Mbiti, John S., *Introduction to African Religion*, Oxford, 1992
4. Parinder, Geoffrey., *West African Religion : a study of the beliefs and practices of Akan, Ewe, Yoruba, Ibo, and Kindred Peoples*, London, 1969
5. Fuller, L., *A Missionary Handbook on African Traditional Religion*, London, 1994.
6. Ranger, T.O., *The Historical Study of African Religion*, London, 1972

7. Mbiti, John S., *Prayer and Spirituality in African Religion*, Bedford Park, 1978
8. Verryyn, T.D., *The Role of Women in Traditional African Religion*, Pretoria, 1972
9. Uka, E.M., *Readings in African Traditional Religion*, Bern, 1991
10. Parrinder, Geoffrey., *African Traditional Religion*, Westport, 1976

Fourth Year B.A. Honours

Seventh Semester

Any four of the following courses

WR-H 401 : Research Methodology

The course is offered in below mentioned four modules:

Module I

1. Research: Definition, Characteristics, Objectives, Research and Scientific method
2. Types of Research : Descriptive vs. Analytical Research, Applied vs. Fundamental Research, Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research, Conceptual vs. Empirical Research
3. Research Methodology: An Introduction
4. Research Process : Basic Overview, Formulating the Research Problem, Defining the Research Problem
5. Research Questions : Research Methods vs. Research Methodology

Module II

1. Literature Review: Review Concepts and Theories
2. Formulation of Hypothesis: Sources of Hypothesis, Characteristics of Hypothesis, Role of Hypothesis, Tests of Hypothesis
3. Research Design
4. Sampling Design
5. Data Collection: Observation Method, Interview Method, Questionnaires, Case Study Method
6. Processing and Analysis of Data: Processing Operations, Statistics in Research, Descriptive Statistics, Inferential Statistics, Elements / Types of Analysis
7. Interpretation of Data

Module III

1. Research in Sociology
2. Research in Religion
3. Models of Research: Evolutive and Evaluative, Identificatory and Impact studies, Projective and Predictive, Collative, Historical, Comparative
4. Current trends in Research: Mono-disciplinary Research, Trans-disciplinary Research, Inter-disciplinary Research
5. Computer & Internet: Its Role in Research, Threats and Challenges to Good Research

Module IV

1. Writing: Article, Essay, Research Paper, Research Project, Legislation Drafting, Judgment Writing, Thesis, Dissertation, Book, Reviews, Book Review, Case Review
2. Criteria of Good Research
3. Research Ethics
4. Citation Methods: Foot Note, Text Note, End Note
5. Citation Rules:
6. Abriviations
6. Plagiarism
7. Bibliography

Books Recommended:

1. Hessler, Richard M., *Social Research Methods*, St. Paul: West Pu. Co, 1992
2. Alvesson, Mats and Skoldberg, Kaj, *Reflexive Methodology: new vistas for qualitative research*, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; London: SAGE, 1999
3. Sherman, Edmund and Reid, William J., *Qualitative Research in Social Work*, New York, Chichester: Columbia University Press, 1994
4. Kovacs, Alberta R., *The Research Process: essentials of skill development*; Alberta R.
5. Kovacs, Philadelphia, Pa.: F.A. Davis, 1985

6. Meloy, Judith M. (ed), *Writing the Qualitative Dissertation: understanding by doing*, 2nd ed, Mahwah, J.J.; London : Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2002
7. Prewitt, Kenneth, *Introductory Research Methodology: East African applications*, University of Nairobi. Institute for Development studies, 1975
8. Goodson, Ivor F., and Mangan, John Marshall, *qualitative Educatioal Research Studies: methodologies in transition*, Ontario: Research Unit on Classroom Learning and computer Use in Schools, 1991
9. Locke, Lawrence F., Spirduso, Waneen Wyrick and Silverman, Stephen J., *Reading And Understanding Research*, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; London: SAGE, 2004

WRC-H 402 : Women in World Religions

This course will focus on the place and role of women in World Religions and how women are perceived in these religions. It will explore how gender power and control is reflected in different cultural belief systems and expressed in religious practices. Using a cross-cultural, comparative perspective the course will survey women in various aspects. Attention will also be focused on the rise of feminism, the re-birth of the goddess religions and the implications of these to traditional religions.

Books Recommended:

1. Altekar, AS. *The Position of Women in Hindu Civilization*, Delhi, 1991
2. Carmody, D.L *Women and World Religions*, New York, 1980
3. Phiri, Isabel Apawo, *African Women in Religions and Culture*, New York, 1992

4. young, Serenity (ed): *An Anthology of Sacred Texts By And About Women*, Bedfordshire, 1993
5. Horner, I B. *Women in Early Buddhist Literature*, Colombo, 1961
6. Biale, Rachel, *Women and Jewish Law*, New York, 1984
7. Pope John Paul II, "Mulieris Dignitatem," *Dignity and Vocation of Women*, Rome, 1988
8. Kidwi, M.H *Women Under Different Social and Religious Laws: Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam*, Delhi, 1976
9. Porringer, G. *Sex in the World's Religions*, New York, 1980
10. O'Hara, A R. *The Position of Women in Early China*, Taipei, 1971

WRC-H 403 : Geography, Demography and Religion

Religion and geography is the study of the impact of geography, place and space, n by the influences of religion in shaping cosmological understandings of the world. From the sixteenth and seventeenth century, the study of geography and religion mainly focused on mapping the spread of Christianity, though in the latter half of the seventeenth century, the influences and spread of other religions were also taken into account. Other traditional approaches to the study of the relationship between geography and religion involved the theological explorations of the workings of Nature – a highly environmentally deterministic approach which

identified the role of geographical environments in determining the nature and evolution of different religious belief. The relationship between geography and religion can clearly be seen in different religious traditions. Topics include:

1. Geography & Environmental context to study religion: basic thoughts and concepts, views
2. Regional approach in geographic study of religion
3. Spatial views: location and spatial distribution, organization & pattern, interaction, hierarchy and order; concept of spatial mobility and theory of spatial diffusion in geographic study of religion
4. Other views: behavioral, resources approaches, and landscape view in geographic study of religion
5. Introduction to Cartography & Geographical Information System (GIS) : presentation and interpretation of mapable aspect of religion
6. Contemporary global distribution of world religions
7. Regional pattern of major intra-religion denominations in the present world
8. Religious cultural landscapes
9. Spatial integration through circulation and mobility : the geography of sacred places and pilgrimage in different religious traditions

Books recommended :

1. Susan Tyler Hitchcock, with John L. Esposito, *Geography of Religion: Where God Lives, Where Pilgrims Walk*, National Geographic Books.

2. Park, Ghis C. 1994. *Sacred Worlds*. New York: Routledge.
3. Stoddard, R. and Morinis, A. 1997. *Sacred Places, Sacred Spaces*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, Department of Geography and Anthropology.
4. Stump, Roger W. 2000. *Boundaries of Faith*, Latham: Rowman and Littlefield. Bhardwaj, S. 1973, 1983. *Hindu Places of Pilgrimage in India*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
5. Coleman, S., and Elsner, J. 1995. *Pilgrimage Past and Present in the World Religions*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
6. Kong, L.(2001) "Mapping 'new' geographies of religion: Politics and Poetics in Modernity", *Progress in Human Geography*, 25(2), 211-233.
7. Park, C. (1994). *Sacred Worlds: An Introduction to Geography and Religion*, London: Routledge.
8. Woodhead, L. Fletcher, P. Kawanami, H. and Smith, D. Eds. (2002) *Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations*, London, Routledge

WRC-H 404 : Religion, Mass Media and Culture

The course is designed to present a tripartite relationship among Mass Media, Religion and Society. It will shed light on the fundamental concepts of Communication, Mass Communication, and the structures and performances of Mass Media. It will focus on the religious, theological, cultural, political and ethical issues and perspectives raised by various media: print, visual, audio, multimedia, and virtual. Special attention will be given to the nature of their relationship and the religious and spiritual issues currently present in their interface, concept of media and religion, Culture and religion, Icons, Songs, Arts, Sign and Symbol, Media and cultural values, Effects of Mass Media on Society, Mass

Media Influence, Types of Mass Media, Role of Mass Media, Pros and Cons of Mass Media, Theory of Mass Media, Power of the Mass Media, Media Influence Politics, Media Influence Culture, Media Influence Religion.

Topics include:

1. Religion as a news beat: how the mass media cover religion and how the religious groups use mass media
2. Religion as a field for legitimate journalistic inquiry
3. Religious newspapers: content, issues and management
4. Political economy of religious newspapers
5. Religious minority in the media
6. Religion and public sphere
7. Theoretical development of media and religion
8. Role of media in ensuring religious harmony.

Books recommended:

1. Palakeel, Joseph, ed. (2003). *Towards a Communication Theology*, Bangalore: Asian Trading Corporation
2. Chandran, Premesh, Czue-Mae, Yoon and Poobalan, Praemeenah (2003). *Communicating the Future* (A Compiled Book from Proceedings from the National Conference on the Future of the Media in a Knowledge Society: Rights, Responsibilities and Risks), Published by Kinibooks, Malaysia.
3. Meyer, Philip, (1987). *Ethical Journalism: A guide for students, practitioners and consumers*. New York: Longman

4. Beiseckers, D. Thomas and Parson, W Donn, ed., (1972). *The Process of Social Influence: Readings in Persuasion*, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall
5. Roberge, Gaston (1998). *Communication Cinema Development: From Morosity to Hope*, New Delhi: Manohar
6. Eilers, Franz-Josef, ed., (2006). *Social Communication in Religious Traditions of Asia*, Manila: Logos (Divine Word) Publications
7. Srampickal, Jacob and Joseph, Leela, ed., (2000). *Stories We Tell Our People: Asian Cinema cultures, Values and More*, New Delhi: OCIC Asia Secretariat
8. McCroskey, James C., (1968). *An Introduction to Rhetorical Communication*, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall
9. Chomphin, Joseph M. (1972). *The Mass in a World of Change*, Published Indiana: Ave Maria Press
10. Eilers, Franz-Josef, ed., (2005). *Interreligious Dialogue as Communication*, Manila: Logos (Divine Word) Publications

WRC-H 405 : Japanese Religions and Culture

This course enables the students to acquire adequate knowledge of Japanese religious traditions for the ancient past to the present. Topics include: nature and myths of Shinto, proto Shinto, classical Shinto and modern Shinto, Japanese Esoteric Buddhism, Amida Pietism, Nichiren and Zen Buddhism, Shinto-Buddhist syncretism; new religious movements in Japan.

Books Recommended :

1. Nakamura, Hajime., *Ways of Thinking of Eastern Peoples: India, China, Tibet and Japan*, Press, 1964
2. Anesaki Masaharu, *History of Japanese Religion*, London, 1963
3. Morioka, Kiyomi., *Religion in Changing Japanese Society*, Tokyo, 1975
4. Minoru Kiyta (ed), *Japanese Buddhism*, Tokyo, 1985
5. Bunce, William., *Japanese Religions*, Tokyo, 1948
6. Inone, William, (ed), *Folk Beliefs in Modern Japan*, Tokyo, 1994
7. Ross, F.H., *Shinto : The Way of Japan*, Boston, 1965
8. Suzuki, D.T., *Zen and Japanese Culture*, New York, 1959
9. Earhart, H. B., *Religion in Japanese Experience*, Kyoto 1974
10. Hardacre, Helen., *The Religion of Japan's Korean Minority*, Berkeley, 1984

Eighth Semester

Any four of the following courses

WRC-H 406 : Comparative Religion

The purpose of this course is to enable the students to understand the nature, scope, development and methods of the study of Comparative Religion. The course also envisages the study of the different major religious thoughts with special emphasis on the following: Basic features of world religions; comparative study of the nature of the Supreme Being, the world, man, basic moral teachings; soteriology, eschatology, meaning and significance of religious symbols and major festivals; family ethics, and inter-religious dialogue.

Books Recommended:

1. Bahm, Archie J., *The World's Living Religions*, New York, 1964
2. Bouquet, A.C., *Comparative Religion: A Short Outline*, 7th ed, London, 1967
3. Cragg, Kenneth, *The Privilege of Man: A theme in Judaic, Islam and Christianity*, London, 1968
4. Katz, Steven (ed), *Mysticism and Religious Traditions*, Oxford, 1983
5. Parrinder, Geoffrey., *Comparative Religion*, 2nd ed, London, 1977
6. Islam, Azizun Nahar., *The Nature of Self, Suffering and Salvation: with special reference to Buddhism and Islam*, Allahabad, 1987
7. Bhattacharyya, Haridas., *Foundations of Living Faith: An Introduction to Comparative Religion*, Calcutta, 1938
8. Srivastava, R.S., *Comparative Religion*, New Delhi, 1974
9. Sharpe, Eric J., *Comparative Religion : A History*, 2nd ed., La Salle, 1986

10. James, E.O., *Comparative Religion : An Introductory and Historical Study*, London, 1961

WRC-H 407 : Religious Beliefs and Practices of America

This course is designed to give the students a clear picture of different religious trends in North America from its indigenous beliefs to the present. The Native American religions, different denominations of Christianity, Jehovah's witness, Judaism and Islam in America will be elaborately discussed. This course will give special emphasis on the exposition of new religious movements in North America.

Books Recommended:

1. Turley, David, *American Religion : Literary Sources and Documents*, Roberts bridge, 1998
2. Bloom, Harold, *The American Religion : The Emergence of the Post-Christian Nation*, London, 1992
3. Schmidt, Jean Miller, *Souls or the Social Order : The Tow-Party System in American Protestantism*, Brooklyn, 1991
4. Marty, Martin E., *Modern American Religion*, Chicago, 1968
5. Baer, Hans A., *African-American Religion in the Twentieth Century*, Knoxville, 1992
6. Clebsch, W.A., *American Religious Thought*, Chicago, 1973
7. Wuthnow, Robert, *The Restructuring of American*, Princeton, 1990
8. Beckwith, Francis J., *The Mormon Concept of God : A Philosophical Analysis*, Lampeter, 1991
9. Wentz, Richard E., *The Leveller and the Aristocrat : Some Thoughts on American Religion and Society*, Wentz, 1991
10. Marty, Martin E., *Native American Religion and Black Protestantism*, Munich, 1993

WRC-H 408 : Environment and Religion

The aim of this course is to study the relationship between environment and religion. Topics include:

1. Geography & Environmental context to study religion: basic thoughts and concepts, views
2. Environmental view: Man-Environmental interaction, Environmental Determinism and Possibilism
3. Regional approach in geographic study of religion
4. Ecological view: causal relationships and system approach in the study of religion
5. Spatial views: location and spatial distribution, organization & pattern, interaction, hierarchy and order; concept of spatial mobility and theory of spatial diffusion in geographic study of religion
6. Other views: behavioral, resources approaches, and landscape view in geographic study of religion
7. Introduction to Cartography & Geographical Information System (GIS) : presentation and interpretation of mapable aspect of religion
8. Contemporary global distribution of world religions
9. Regional pattern of major intra-religion denominations in the present world
10. Religious cultural landscapes
11. Spatial integration through circulation and mobility : the geography of sacred places and pilgrimage in different religious traditions
12. Religion, Environmental and Ecology

Books recommended :

1. Susan Tyler Hitchcock, with John L. Esposito, *Geography of Religion: Where God Lives, Where Pilgrims Walk*, National Geographic Books
2. Park, Ghis C. 1994. *Sacred Worlds*. New York: Routledge.
3. Stoddard, R. and Morinis, A. 1997. *Sacred Places, Sacred Spaces*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, Department of Geography and Anthropology.

4. Stump, Roger W. 2000. *Boundaries of Faith*, Lnham: Rowman and Littlefield.
5. Bhardwaj, S. 1973, 1983. *Hindu Places of Pilgrimage in India*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
6. Coleman, S., and Elsner, J. 1995. *Pilgrimage Past and Present in the World Religions*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
7. Kong, L.(2001) "Mapping 'new' geographies of religion: Politics and Poetics in Modernity", *Progress in Human Geography*, 25(2), 211-233.
8. Park, C. (1994). *Sacred Worlds: An Introduction to Geography and Religion*, London: Routledge.
9. Woodhead, L. Fletcher, P. Kawanami, H. and Smith, D. Eds. (2002) *Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations*, London, Routledge.

WRC-H 409: Religion, Peace and Conflict

This course enables the students to acquire adequate knowledge regarding the interconnectedness between religion, peace and conflict. This course will include the following issue: Concept of Religion, peace and conflict. Religion in Conflict resolution and Peace building and Peace keeping. Religion based conflicts: intra and inter-religious conflicts. The role of religions for the progress of human civilization. Religious tolerance and harmony. Religious majorities and minorities : their problems and remedies. Conflict between religious laws and civil laws. Religious unity and pluralism: Concepts and Theories. Fundamentalism, Extremism, Fanaticism, Secularism, Liberalism and Pluralism. Religious dialogues for world peace. Intellectual conflict between religious scholars and scientists. World leaders and religious scholars in peace building and conflict resolution and some observations.

Books Recommended:

1. Kevin Avruch, *Culture and Conflict Resolution*, West Minister John, Knox Press, 1992
2. Janson Henry and Jerald D., *Religion, Conflict and Reconciliations: Multifaith Ideasl and Realities*, Rodopi, 2002
3. Sohail H. Hashmi, *Islamic Political ethics, Civil Society: Pluralism and Conflict*, Princeton University Press, 2002
4. Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*, New Haven and London Yale University Press, 1968
5. Murad Willfred Huff Mann, *Islam and Western World*, Istambul, 1998
6. Bullard, R., *The East*, London, Oxford University Press, 1998
7. Nazih W. Ayubi, *Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab World*, London, New york, 1991
8. Siddique, Iqtidar Hussain, *Islam and Muslims in South Asia: A Historical Perspective*, New Delhi, 1987
9. I. H. Broomfield, *Elite Conflict in a Plural Society*, University of California Press and Oxford University Press, 1968
10. Lewin, A. R. (ed), *the Islamic World and the West (622-1492 A.D.)*, New York, 1970
11. Ray Choudhury, S.C., *Social Cultural and Economic History of India (Medicvalage)* Delhi, 1978
12. Majid Khadduri, *War and Peace in the Law of Islam*, Baltimore, 1960

WRC-H 410 : Interfaith Dialogue and Understanding

The course tries to explore about the basic conditions and characteristics of inter-religious peace and harmony; inter-religious and intercultural understanding and

dialogue from the perspective of different religions; causes of communal riots and their consequences; methods of minimizing intra and inter-religious conflicts; necessity of dialogue among religions and its relevancy to the present world order; and, Bangladesh & its Bengal heritage for religious and cultural peace throughout the ages.

Recommended Books:

1. Nimer, Mohammad Abu, et al (2009). *Peace-building by, between, and beyond Muslims and Evangelical Christians*, Lexington Books
2. Beusmans, Marielle C. A. (2010). *Towards Interreligious Harmony: A Resource Book and Manual Promoting Interreligious Dialogue*, Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics
3. Chowdhury, Abdul Mumin, (2010). *Prachin Banglar Itihas o Songskrit*, Dhaka:Maola Brothers
4. Islam, Azizunnaha and Islam, Kazi Nurul, (2002). *Tulonamuluk Dharma o Annanya Prasonga*, Dhaka: Bangla Academy
5. Anisuzzaman, Md. (2015). *Samprodaikota o Dharmaniropekkhata*, Dhaka: BPL
6. Swidler, Leonard and Moser, Paul (2000). *The Study of Religion in an Age of Global Dialogue*, Temple University Press, Philadelphia.
7. Swidler, Leonard (1990). *After the Absolute : The dialogical Future of Religious Reflection*, Fortrees Press, Manniapolis
8. Swidler, Leonard, ed. (1992). *Muslims in Dialogue: The Evolution of a Dialogue*, The Edwin Mellin Press, Lewistion
9. Chakma, Niru Kumar and Salauddin, A K M ed. (2004). *Inter-Religious Dialogue: Chance for Peace*, Goethe Institute, Dhaka
10. Kung, Hans (1990). *Global Responsibility: In Search of a New Global Ethic*, SCM Press, London