

SCHOOL BASED STUDENTS

ARE 103: ARE 103: History of Religion I

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION 2012/2013

**1st YEAR 2nd SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION ARTS WITH IT.**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper contains FIVE (5) questions
2. Answer question 1 (Compulsory) and **ANY** other 2 Questions
3. Write all answers in the booklet provided

1. With relevant examples, discuss the importance of the fundamental teachings of Buddhism by exploring the four noble truths. (30 mks)
2. Write short notes on the following prominent themes of Vedic Hinduism: (20 mks)
 - a. Vedic deities
 - b. Vedic rituals
 - c. The caste system
3. Discuss five methodological perspectives that enabled scholars to study the History of Religion in different contexts. (20 mks)
4. “The characteristics of religions of ‘primitive’ man are indicators that world religions have heavily borrowed from Pre-historic cultures”. Examine this statement by giving relevant examples. (20 mks)
5. Relate the characteristic features of the Religions of the Aboriginals of Australia to the African Indigenous Religion. (20 Mks)

ARE 103: COURSE OUTLINE

JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY **Year One, Semester Two: SCHOOL BASED** **Course Outline ARE 103: HISTORY OF RELIGIONS 1**

LECTURE SCHEDULE: 42HRS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: History of Religions I lays a firm foundation of the study of the science of religions by venturing into the “primitive” historical perspectives of religions; theories of the origin of religions; religious traditions of various peoples of the world; religions of pre-historic man, and selected religions of preliterate peoples, with special attention on African Religion and Religions of India.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1. Informed class participation. Classroom discussions are an integral part of learning discourse. This class will be built around intense class presentations and discussions. To do this successfully students will be required to read the assigned text prior to every class. All assignments will be given in class.
2. Students will be required to write term paper of a maximum of ten (10) pages and a minimum of eight (8) on topics to be assigned during the course. This will constitute 15% of the 30% C.A.T. marks.
3. Each student will be required to sit for a C.A.T. This will constitute 15 % of the 30% C.A.T. marks.

CLASS POLICIES

1. Regular attendance of lectures is mandatory and important because the course involves sharing of insights based on the readings understanding, explanation and interpretation of texts with the rest of the class. Also note that attendance of lectures is a factor in grading evaluation.
2. All assignments must be turned in when they are due.
3. Both class discussions and written assignments will be conducted in academically appropriate language that enhances learning and also preserves and promotes respect for others.

COURSE CONTENTS: Topics and Sub-Topic

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Importance of the Study of History of Religions I

- 1.1.1 Attempts to define Religion
 - 1.1.1.1 General Definition of the Term Religion
 - 1.1.1.2 Scholarly Definitions of the Term Religion
- 1.1.2 The Notion “History of Religion”

- 1.1.3 History of the Study of Religion
- 1.1.4 Methodological Perspectives in History of Religions
- 1.1.5 Approaches that enabled Scholars Study the History of Religion in Different Contexts

2. EARLIEST RELIGION

- 2.1 The Problem of Origins
- 2.2 The Patterns of Prehistoric Life
- 2.3 The Early History of Religion

3. THEORIES OF THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION

- 3.1 Anthropological Approaches to the Origin of Religion
- 3.2 Fetishism and Magic
- 3.3 Naturism
- 3.4 Animism
- 3.5 Euhemerism
- 3.6 Totemism
- 3.7 The Oedipus Complex

4. RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF VARIOUS PEOPLES OF THE WORLD

4.1 Religions of Pre-historic Man and Selected Pre-literate Peoples

- 4.1.1 Characteristic Features of Religion in Primitive Cultures
- 4.1.2 Special Attention to:
 - 4.1.2.1 African Religion
 - 4.1.2.2 Religions of the Indigenous Australians
 - 4.1.2.3 Religions of the Indigenous Eskimos
 - 4.1.2.4 Religions of the Indigenous Americans

4.2 Religions of India

- 4.2.1 Hinduism
- 4.2.2 Jainism
- 4.2.3 Buddhism
- 4.2.4 Sikhism

REFERENCES

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2. Durkheim, Emile, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1915.
3. Eliade, M., *The Quest: History and Meaning of Religion*. Chicago University Press, 1959.
4. Evans, Pritchard, *Theories of Primitive Religions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965.
5. _____, *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976.
6. Idowu Bolagi, *African Traditional Religion*. London: SCM Press Ltd, 1973.
7. James, E. O., *Comparative Religion and Introduction and Historical study*. London. Methuen, 1961.
8. MBITI, J. S., *African Religions and Philosophy*. London: Heinemann, 1969.
9. _____, *An Introduction to African Religion*. London: Heinemann, 1975.
10. Mugambi, J. N.K., *A Comparative Study of Religions*. Nairobi: U.O.N. Press, 1990.
11. Ninian, Smart, *The Religion Experience of Mankind*. New York: Collins, 1969.

12. _____, *The World's Religions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
13. Noss, John, *Man's Religion*. London: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1980.
14. Parrinder, E. G., *The World's Living Religions*. London: Pan, 1964.

COURSE LECTURER: DR. NAILA NAPOO