



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION  
WITH IT.  
1<sup>st</sup> YEAR 1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER 2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR  
MAIN CAMPUS – SCHOOL BASED**

---

**COURSE CODE: ZRE 3112**

**COURSE TITLE: HISTORY OF RELIGION**

**EXAM VENUE:**

**STREAM: (BED )**

**DATE:**

**EXAM SESSION:**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

---

**Instructions:**

- 1. Answer Question ONE (COMPULSORY) and ANY other 2 questions**
- 2. Candidates are advised not to write on the question paper.**
- 3. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room.**

1. a) Trace and discuss the “History of the Study of Religion” with special focus on the ‘Earliest evidence of religious ideas’ (15 marks)

b) Discuss John Bowker (1934- ) and Lord Herbert of Cherbury (1583-1648) views on how the earliest history of religion could be written in the contemporary times. (15 marks)

2. With appropriate examples from any Kenyan religion, discuss the dimensions of pre-historic religion and early human’s life basing your argument on:

i. Material Dimension (10 marks)

ii. Doctrinal Dimension (10 marks)

3. a) Provide an adequate analysis of the Vedas as taught in Hindu Religion. (4 marks)

b) Discuss the four parts of the Vedas. (16 marks)

4. Examine the importance of the fundamental teachings of Buddhism by exploring the four noble truths. (20 marks)

5. With relevant examples from your society discuss the following:

i. Totemism (5 marks)

ii. Fetishism (5 marks)

iii. Animism (5 marks)

iv. Anthropomorphism in religion (5 marks)

**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**School of Humanities and Social Sciences: Department of History, Religion and Philosophy**  
**Course Outline ZRE 3112: HISTORY OF RELIGIONS**

**Year 1, Semester 1 (Sep-Dec), 2016; Contact Hours: 42; Lecture Hours: 42; Credit Hours: 3**

**Pre-requisites:** ZRE 3112. **Lecture Schedule:** 42hrs: Credit Hours: 3 hours/week (3 credits):  
Thursdays: 11-14hr at Lab 2. **Office Hours:** Mondays-Fridays 8.00hrs-17.00hrs.

**Purpose:** This course examines the History of Religions by exploring the historical development of Religions from the “primitive” times the hominids to the contemporary institutionalized religions. The course lays a firm foundation of the study of religions by exploring 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; selected religions of preliterate peoples; and World Religions.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the course unit the learners should be able to:

- Make a comprehensive survey, analysis of the notion, etymological and scholarly meaning of the term religion.
- Discuss the Earliest Religion and Examine the Theories of the Origin of Religion
- Analyze the historical development of Religious Traditions of various peoples of the world, especially Religions of Pre-historic man, selected pre-literate peoples and selected World Religions.
- Examine the various scholarly tools used in the reconstruction of The History of Religion
- Equip the learner with relevant work environment skills gained in the Study of the History of Religion to a Comparative Study of Religions in the contemporary Kenyan Society; and
- To enable the graduate to integrate theory with praxis and have high sense of respect, tolerance and co-existence with other religions other than one’s own.

**Teaching Methodologies:** A combination of Lectures; Tutorials; Class/Group discussions, Class presentations, Assignments and Internet research.

**Instructional Material/Equipment:** Handouts; Chalk/white boards.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSESSMENT 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. Each student will be required to sit for a C.A.T. This will constitute 15 % of the 30% C.A.T. marks, and End Semester Examination - 70%; Total 100%.

### **COURSE CONTENTS: Topics and Sub-Topic**

#### **0. INTRODUCTION**

0.1 Word of Welcome and General Information of the Course

- 0.2 Introduction of the course
  - 0.2.1 Course Outline
- 0.3 What is History of Religions?
- 0.4 The Importance of the Study of History of Religion
  - 0.4.1 The Goal of the Study of Religion

## **1. DEVELOPMENT AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF RELIGION**

- 1.1 Development of History of Religion
  - 1.1.1 The “Notion History of Religion”
  - 1.1.2 School of History of Religion
  - 1.1.3 Overview: Cultural and Religious Diversity and Establishment of Socio-Economic Histories
  - 1.1.4 Origin: Earliest Religion
  - 1.1.5 Religion at the Neolithic Revolution
    - 1.1.5.1 Neolithic Religions
    - 1.1.5.2 Value of Religion
  - 1.1.6 Axial Age
  - 1.1.7 Middle Ages
  - 1.1.8 Modern Period
- 1.2 How is/was Early History of Religion Written in the Contemporary Times?
  - 1.2.1 Methodology of History of Religion
  - 1.2.2 Writing of Early History of Religion in the Contemporary Times: John Bowker (2002)
    - 1.2.3 Popular Ideas that Influenced Scholars of Religion in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries
      - 1.2.3.1 Evolution
      - 1.2.3.2 Functionalism
      - 1.2.3.3 Structuralism
      - 1.2.3.4 Psycho-Analysis

## **2. EARLIEST RELIGION**

- 2.1 The Problem of Origins
- 2.2 The Patterns of Prehistoric Life
  - 2.2.1 Dimensions of Prehistoric Religion

## **3. RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD (WORLD RELIGIONS)**

- 3.1 Religious Traditions of Various Peoples of The World
  - 3.1.1 Religions of Pre-Historic Man and Selected Pre-Literate Peoples Outside Africa
    - 3.1.1.1 Characteristic Features of Religion in Primitive Cultures
    - 3.1.1.2 Case Studies of Religions of Religions of Pre-Historic Man: Their Beliefs and Practices: Special Attention to:
      - 3.1.1.2.1 Religions of the Indigenous Australians
      - 3.1.1.2.2 Religions of the Indigenous Eskimos
      - 3.1.1.2.3 Religions of the Indigenous Americans
      - 3.1.1.2.4 Summary

## **4. Religions Originating in India and the Far East**

- 4.1. Religions Originating in India
  - 4.1.1 Hinduism
- 4.2 Religions of the Far East
  - 4.2.1 Daoism (Taoism)

## 5. Religious Dialogue

### REFERENCES

1. Bowker, J., (ed.), *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Religions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
2. Eliade, M., *The Quest: History and Meaning of Religion*. Chicago University Press, 1959.
3. Evans, Pritchard, *Theories of Primitive Religions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976.
5. Idowu, Bolagi, *African Traditional Religion*. London: SCM Press Ltd, 1973.
6. Magesa, Laurenti, *African Religion: The Moral Traditions of Abundant Life*. Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa, 1998 (Third print, 2011).
7. Mugambi, J. N. K. (ed.), *A Comparative Study of Religions*. Nairobi: U.O.N. Press, 1990 (2010).
8. Ninian, Smart, *The Religion Experience of Mankind*. New York: Collins, 1969.
9. \_\_\_\_\_, *The World's Religions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
10. Noss, John, *Man's Religion*. London: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1980.
11. Parrinder, E. G., *The World's Living Religions*. London: Pan, 1964.

### Books for Further Reference

12. Durkheim, Emile, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1915.
13. Eliade, M.,(ed.),*The Encyclopedia of Religion*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1987.
14. James, E. O., *Comparative Religion and Introduction and Historical study*. London. Methuen, 1961.
15. Knox, Arbuthnot, R., *Enthusiasm: A Chapter in the History of Religion, with Special Reference to XVII and XVIII Centuries*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1950.
16. Larson J. Edward, *The History of Science Religion in the Western Tradition: Encyclopedia*, 2000.
17. Mbiti, J. S., *African Religions and Philosophy*. London: Heinemann, 1969.
18. \_\_\_\_\_, *An Introduction to African Religion*. London: Heinemann, 1975.
19. Olupona, Jacob K., (ed.,) *African Traditional Religions in Contemporary Society*. New York: Paragon House Publishers, 1991
20. Partridge, Christopher, *Introduction to World Religion*. Fortress Press, 2005.

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Naila G. Napoo                      **Sign:**                      **Date:** 22.10.2016

**Chair/HoD:** Dr. Naila G. Napoo                      **Sign:**                      **Date:**

