

Course Code : MPU3313/03
Course Title : Comparative Religions
Advisory Prerequisite(s) : Nil
Level : Lower
Credit hours : 3
Duration of course : 1 semester

Course Coordinator

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MA (English language) Universiti Sains Malaysia

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This course covers the major world religions, their origins, their basic characteristics, their function in human societies and their dynamics. It also aims at developing familiarity and a basic understanding of the religions studied. Knowledge of the variation and diversity, as well as cross-cultural and shared values in religions, and between different aspects of religion are discussed in order to equip students with the ability to identify differences and similarities between them. Furthermore, the course will explore and offer proactive strategies for positive relationships with the different religious communities in the Malaysian context

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a knowledge of the beliefs, tenets and characteristics of the major religious traditions found in Malaysia.
- Explain similarities and differences among the major religions in Malaysia.
- Discuss proactive strategies for positive relationships among the different religious communities in the Malaysian context.

Topics

- Introduction to the study of religions
- Primal Religions
- Religions originating in India
- Religions originating in China and Japan
- Religions originating in the Middle East

Main Reference

Wawasan Open University (2014). Comparative Religions. Penang: Wawasan Open University.

Other references

Furseth, I., & Repstad, P. (2016). An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion. London: Taylor & Francis.

Lewis M. Hopfe & Mark R. Woodward (2016). Religions of the World. 13th Edition. New Jersey: Pearson Education Inc.