MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module title	Code
Religion in Contemporary Society Religija šiuolaikinėje visuomenėje	

Lecturer	Department
Coordinating: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson	Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies Universiteto str. 5, LT-01513 Vilnius

Study cycle	Module level	Module type
First	1 of 1	Elective

Mode of delivery	Period of delivery	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	Spring semester	English

Student requirements	
Prerequisites: none	**Co-requisites:** none

Number of credits allocated to the module	Total student workload	Contact study hours	Independent study hours
5	133	48	85

Module Aim: Competencies Developed within the Study Programme		
Module Aim: to explore and critically assess the manifestations of religious diversity in contemporary societies from a social sciences perspective. To understand the impact of globalisation processes on religious diversity and to become familiar with and critically evaluate contemporary research on religion, its theoretical insights and methodological approaches. The course aims to develop students' ability to identify and understand the key issues involved in the social scientific study of religion. It examines the role of religion in the lives of individuals, communities and society as a whole. It also fosters interdisciplinary, problem-oriented analytical skills and enhances students' cognitive and communication skills, enabling them to better understand other cultures through an appreciation of the role and place of religion within them and to apply this perspective to the study of religion in contemporary societies.		
Module Learning Outcomes	**Study methods**	**Assessment methods**
Will understand social science perspectives on the manifestations, place and role of religion in contemporary societies and cultures;	1. Problem-based teaching; 2. Independent study of seminar materials and group presentations; 3. Discussions and text interpretation; 4. E-learning; 5. Consultations; 6. Written assignment.	Assessment of participation and engagement during lectures; oral presentation of seminar work; assessment of written assignments.
Will be able to describe and critically evaluate research on religion, its theoretical foundations and methodological issues;		
Will be able to describe the manifestations of religion at the macro, meso and micro levels of social life;		
Will be able to describe and compare the characteristics and patterns of religions and cultures in the context of globalisation and transcultural communication;		
Will acquire interdisciplinary methodological tools for the study of religion and will be able to analyse local and global social processes related to these religions;		

Will acquire systemic competencies that require a holistic set of abilities and skills, including the ability to integrate understanding, sensitivity and knowledge.		

Topics	**Contact study hours**							**Independent Study Time and Assignments**	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Pratybos	Laboratory work	Practical training	**Total contact hours**	**Independent study**	**Assignments**
1. The study of religion in the social sciences. Aspects of religion (belief, ritual, experience and community). Issues in defining religion in contemporary societies.	4		4				**8**	**5**	*Reading of assigned literature*: Dillon, M. 45–60.
2. Secularisation, religious individualisation and market aspects of religion	2		2				**4**	**6**	*Reading of assigned literature*: Turner, B.S. 2010, 125–140.
3. Individual religion. Everyday religion. Religion, gender and the body.	4		4				**8**	**12**	*Reading of assigned literature*: Bowie, F. 34–61. *Reading of assigned literature (group work)*: Yamane, D. 281–300; 301–320; 373–394.
4. Religious organisations, their types and typologies. The dynamics of forms of religious collectivity. New religions.	4		4				**8**	**10**	*Reading of assigned literature*: Wilson, B., Creswell J. 33–48. *Reading of assigned literature (group work)*: Yamane, D. 133–154; 176–196; 197–216.
5. Religion and social control. Fundamentalism in the contemporary world.	2		2				**4**	**6**	*Reading of assigned literature (group work)*: Yamane, D. 321–341; Dillon, M. 359–381; Magyar, B., Vásárhelyi, J. 421–458.
6. Religion and ritual. Ritual theories.	2		2				**4**	**6**	*Reading of assigned literature*: Bowie, F. 138–173.
7. Religion, state, political behaviour and public culture.	2		4				**6**	**10**	*Reading of assigned literature*: Haynes, J. 174–190; Moumita, S.

									& Nielsen, K. B. 497–512.
8. Writing a written assignment and preparing for the examination.		6					**6**	**30**	
Total	**20**	**6**	**22**				**48**	**85**	

Assessment Strategy	**Weight (%)**	**Time of Assessment**	**Assessment Criteria**
Examination	30	During the examination session	The examination takes place upon completion of the entire course, provided that the student has received a passing grade for each course assignment. The written examination consists of two theoretical questions and one problem-solving task related to the subject matter of religious studies. Each theoretical question is worth 3 points, while the problem-solving task is worth 4 points. The examination assesses the student's understanding of theoretical concepts, ability to use and apply relevant terminology, analytical, reasoning and argumentation skills, ability to provide examples, explain and substantiate ideas logically, and apply theoretical and methodological approaches to solving problems. The examination accounts for 30% of the final cumulative grade.
Presentation of the Seminar Assignment	40	During the semester	Working with literature on religious studies (individual written assignment and group presentation with seminar discussion) 1) During the seminar, one chapter from the assigned reading list, relevant to the course topic and selected by the student group, will be presented. Based on the topic of the presented text, the group members and other seminar participants will raise questions and issues for discussion. The total duration of the presentation and discussion is up to 30 minutes. Assessment: The seminar assignment is graded on a 10-point scale. It accounts for 20% of the final cumulative grade. A passing grade for the seminar assignment is a prerequisite for taking the module examination. 2) During the seminars, each student group will present one book relevant to the course topics, selected from the provided reading list. The presentation may take any format chosen by the group. Each presentation should last 10–15 minutes. Based on the subject matter of the presented book, the group members and other seminar participants will raise questions and issues for discussion. The total duration of the presentation and discussion is up to 30 minutes. Assessment: The seminar assignment is graded on a 10-point scale. It accounts for 20% of the final cumulative grade. A passing grade for the seminar assignment is a prerequisite for taking the module examination.
Individual Written Assignment	30	During the semester	An individual descriptive written assignment designed to present a specific religious phenomenon. The following aspects of the written assignment will be assessed: formulation of the research idea, aim and objectives; development of the main body and conclusions; academic writing style; and research ethics and standards. Length: 2,000–2,500 words, including footnotes and bibliography.

			A passing grade for the individual written assignment is a prerequisite for taking the module examination.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue number or volume of the periodical	Place of publication and publisher, or online link
Required reading				
Yamane, D. (ed.)	2016	*Handbook of Religion and Society*		Springer
Turner, B. S., Salemink, O. (eds.)	2015	*Routledge Handbook of Religions in Asia*		London and New York: Routledge
Turner, B. S. (ed.)	2012	*Routledge Handbook of Body Studies*		London and New York: Routledge
Dillon, M. (ed.)	2003	*Handbook of Sociology of Religion*		New York: Cambridge University Press
Turner, B.S. (ed.)	2010	*The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion*		Willey-Blackwell
Haynes, J. (ed.)	2010	*Routledge Handbook of Religion and Politics*		London and New York: Routledge
Bowie, F.	2005	*The Anthropology of Religion: An Introduction*		Oxford: Willey-Blackwell
Magyar, B., Vásárhelyi, J. (eds.)	2017	*Twenty-Five Sides of a Post-Communist Mafia State*		Central European University Press
Moumita, S., Nielsen, K. B.	2022	"Gods in the public sphere: political deification in South Asia". *Religion.*	52:4, p. 497-512.	
Additional reading				
McGuire, M. B.	2002	*Religion: the Social Context*		Belmont, CA: Wadsworth
Campbell, C.	2008	*Easternization of the West: A Thematic Account of Cultural Change in the Modern Era*		London and New York: Routledge
Murphy, A. R.	2011	*The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence*		Willey-Blackwell