

Religious Studies

UCAS Code: Combined Honours only (please see website for details)

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2024/2025

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Religious Studies at Liverpool Hope explores the practice and significance of religion in contemporary society through the study of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, African religious traditions, and Indic traditions such as Buddhism and Hinduism. A balance between the study of religious texts and lived religion in the contemporary world is maintained throughout the degree. Religious Studies pays close attention to what supporters of these religions think, do, and believe, and explores the very real differences that exist between various groups within each faith.

Throughout your studies, you will analyse and contextualise the theology behind key religions to appreciate their history and their relevance to the social and political landscape. All of our teaching is research-informed and you will be taught by highly-qualified academics, all of whom have a PhD in the area, who are both active and published researchers and committed teachers.

Above all, the Religious Studies degree treats religions as lived faiths by looking at the way that they are followed in Britain and across the globe today. You acquire skills in the different methods of studying religion. The degree looks at questions of faith and life and at the same time is intellectually challenging. By drawing out the complex issues that surround religious belief and expression, the degree equips you to engage with the pressing questions of our time and to play your part in promoting religious and social harmony.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2024/2025 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

As well as your tuition fees, you also need approximately £100 to purchase key text books.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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HOPE
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Religious Studies Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to the Study of Religion

This unit covers the main theories of religion, key ideas and themes (sacred texts, myth, ritual, sacred objects), questions such as the insider/outsider debate, religion and identity.

African Traditional Religion

This unit introduces you to some of the key aspects of the study of religion through the lens of the traditional religions of Africa.

Introduction to Islam

The course aims to introduce students to the contemporary study of Islam. It begins by covering matters to do with the origins of Islam, the Quran and the tradition-literature.

Introduction to Judaism

The themes covered in this course include the authoritative writings of Judaism; the essentials of Jewish belief; the Jewish calendar, rituals and feasts; Messianism; gender; Zionism and the State of Israel.

Introduction to Hinduism

Hinduism is one of humanity's ancient and complex religious traditions. This unit helps students to navigate the rich ideas, texts and images of Hinduism by discussing a number of key dimensions.

Religion and Violence in Liverpool

This unit focuses on Liverpool and its often-violent religious past. The themes covered include the slave trade, the impact of emigration from Ireland on the religious landscape of the city, and the roots of the 1909 Liverpool sectarian riots.

Year Two

Religious Ethics and Spirituality

Can religious commands ever be unethical? With this question in mind, this course examines important ethical issues and theories in Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, and secular traditions.

Christianity

In this course Christianity, a thoroughly global faith, is studied from a global point of view, examining diverse ritual practices, behaviours, beliefs and customs.

Buddhism

This course offers an introduction to Buddhism, by looking at who Siddhartha Gautama (the historical Buddha) was and what he did, before exploring various key areas of Buddhism.

Islamic law and society

The course examines how Islamic law engages questions of politics, gender and its application within Western civil legal system. It also explores the differences between Shi'ism and Sunnism and how that is reflected in Iran today.

Year Three

Islamic political thought

This course allows students to read and interpret primary sources in translation that reflect the main three genres of writings on political theory in medieval Islam: Legal, literary and philosophical.

Judaism in the Shadow of the Shoah (Holocaust)

In this course, we examine ways in which Jewish thinkers, artists, and writers have responded to the horrors of the Shoah by both appealing to tradition and striving towards the future.

Islamic Sufism (mysticism)

The course explores Ghazali's pivotal role in synthesizing Sufi ideas with other sources of knowledge in Islam as he provides a broad definition of Islamic Orthodoxy.

Religion, Conflict, and Reconciliation

The course looks at various contexts in the world to assess the relevance of engaging religion for the coherence of societies and pursuit of peace even when conflict is associated with religious sensitivities.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars of smaller groups of around 15-20 students, and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 students. You also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

For the Religious Studies part of your Combined Honours degree, in your first year of study there are approximately 6 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours each week in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend a number of hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Throughout your three years of study you will have a number of assessments, including written exams, essays, case studies and portfolios. Depending on choices you make in your third year, assessments may also include textual analysis, fieldwork reports and literature reviews.

You will receive your feedback via the University's Virtual Online Learning Environment (Moodle), and you are also welcome to discuss the feedback with your tutors.



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