

2.3.1.13 Religious Studies

What is the meaning of “religion” in the 21st century? Sigmund Freud sought to bring religion under the microscope of scientific rationality in his 1927 work *The Future of an Illusion*. Religion, answering back, might quote Mark Twain: “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.” Religion has always been a prominent force in human life, and, despite predictions to the contrary, it remains one today. In this region, it is impossible to understand our society or those of our neighbours without understanding the religions that permeate them. Moreover, by virtue of its secular state and pluralistic society, Singapore is well positioned to take a leading role in the study of religion. Religious Studies at NUS will involve the scholarly exploration both of the phenomenon of religion and of different religious traditions. Religious Studies, as a scholarly and intellectual discipline, transcends individual disciplines to consider beliefs, practices, texts, history and social functions of religion from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. This programme will train students to discuss — with respect and grace — some of the most volatile issues of our time.

Programme Requirements

Requirements for Cohort 2010 and After:

Pass at least 24 MCs from the list of Religious Studies Minor modules, which include:

1. Essential:
 1. GEK1045 or GEH1045 Introduction to World Religions (Essential Module)
2. Electives:
 1. A minimum of two modules (8 MCs) at Level-3000 or higher
 2. Students are limited to taking a maximum of three modules from a single department (outside the student’s major).

ESSENTIAL MODULE	
GEK1045 or GEH1045	Introduction to World Religions
ELECTIVE MODULES	
LEVEL-1000	
GEM1033 or GEH1055	Religion and Film
LEVEL-2000	
HY2230	Southeast Asian Islam in Historical Perspective

HY2234	Buddhism in Southeast Asian History
HY2253	Christianity in World History
HY2255	Islam in World History
MS2205	Islam and Contemporary Malay Society
PH2204	Introduction to Indian Thought
PH2211	Philosophy of Religion
SN2271	Religion and Society in South Asia
SN2276	Islam: Society and Culture in South Asia
SN2278	Introduction to Sikhism
XD2201	The Bible and Christianity
PH2321/GEK2046	Philosophies of Zen (Chan) Buddhism
SE2226	Moro Peoples of the Philippines
SE2228	The History and Anthropology of Christianity in SE Asia
SE2880A	Southeast Asia's Cultural Mosaic
MS2212	Law and Malay Society
LEVEL-3000	
HY3241	Religion in the History of China and Japan
HY3246	History of Muslim Southeast Asia
JS3211	Modern Japanese Religion
MS3218	The Religious Life of the Malays
PH3304	Daoist Traditions
PS3236	Ethnicity & Religion in Asian Politics
SC3208	Religion in Society and Culture

SE3211	Religion, Society and Politics in SE Asia
SN3276	Introduction to Indian Classical Texts
SN3278	Rivers of India: Divinity and Sacred Space
USP3506	Religion in the Contemporary World
MS3219	Muslim Personal Law in Southeast Asia
LEVEL-4000	
LL4042	Law and Religion
MS4880A	Topics in Muslim Revivalism
SC4218	Religions, Secularity, Post-Secularity

Note 1:

Students who have taken XD2101 prior to AY2011/2012 could still classify this module to fulfil the elective requirement of the minor.

Students are advised to study more than one religion (i.e., you should not read ALL your electives in courses focusing on just Buddhism or just Islam).

A maximum of 8 MCs from the minor can be used to satisfy the requirements of a major or another minor.

For the latest updates, please visit the Minor in Religious Studies website at:

<http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/oop>