Five Great Religions of the World: Part 1

Credit / award  Non-accredited
Start date  8 January 2020           End date  5 February 2020
Day and time  Wednesdays, 18:00 – 19:30  No of meetings  5
Venue  Faculty of Divinity
       Sidgwick Site
       Cambridge
Tutor  Dr Karim Esmail  Course code  1920NWR006

Director ISP and LL  Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact
Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 764637

To book  See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography
Karim Esmail  BA  MPhil  MPhil  PhD
Dr Esmail lectures at both Oxford and Cambridge. He has been a Research Fellow at Oxford, Visiting Fellow at Harvard, and Burney Student at Cambridge, where he won the Gregg Bury Prize. He has also been awarded a British Academy Studentship.

Alongside international articles, he is the author of two clear, original and best-selling philosophical works on God's nature and existence: God A brief philosophical introduction (2016); God A brief philosophical introduction II (2019)

Dr Esmail has taught courses for the Institute in a number of areas. They include the following: Great Ancient and Medieval Philosophers; Great Modern Philosophers; The Nature of Knowledge; The Problem of Evil; Philosophy of Religion.

Classes with Dr Esmail consist of clearly structured lectures and discussion. Students are assisted to begin to engage critically with the subject.
Course syllabus

Aims of Part 1

- To provide an understanding of three of the five great religions of the world, viz. Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism, in terms of their birth and their early historical development;
- To provide an understanding of the key text(s) and key beliefs and some of the key practices in the case of Hinduism and Buddhism;
- To provide an understanding of the key text(s) in the case of Judaism.

Content Part 1

Session 1 Introduction; Hinduism
Vedic period: pre-Aryan and Aryan culture
Renouncer tradition

Session 2 Hinduism
Classical period:
Growth of theistic tradition Literature Gods

Session 3 Buddhism
Scripture The Buddha and his fundamental teachings

Session 4 Buddhism
Early development Expansion Division

Session 5 Judaism
The Hebrew Bible Early (traditional) history

Presentation of the course:

Lectures (principally) and discussion

As a result of Part 1 of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should have:

- An understanding of three of the five great religions of the world, viz. Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism, in terms of their birth and their early historical development;
- An understanding of the key text(s) and beliefs and some of the key practices in the case Hinduism and Buddhism;
- An understanding of the key text(s) in the case of Judaism.
## Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher and date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smart, N</td>
<td>The World's Religions</td>
<td>Cambridge, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood, Gavin</td>
<td>An Introduction to Hinduism</td>
<td>Cambridge, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipner, J</td>
<td>Hindus: their beliefs and practices</td>
<td>Routledge, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey, Peter</td>
<td>An Introduction to Buddhism</td>
<td>Cambridge, 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de Lange, Nicholas</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>Oxford, 1987</td>
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**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 25 September 2019