



Five Great Religions of the World: Part 2

Credit / award	Non-accredited		
Start date	26 February 2020	End date	25 March 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	1920NWR007

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 2

- To provide a (continued) understanding of the early historical development of Judaism and an understanding of its key beliefs and an understanding of some of the key elements in the thought of Philo ;
- To provide an understanding of two of the five great religions of the world, viz. Christianity and Islam, 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 Christianity and Islam.

Content

Session 1	Introduction <i>Judaism (cont.)</i>	Early (traditional) history	Beliefs	Philo
Session 2	<i>Christianity</i> The Bible	Jesus	Paul	
Session 3	<i>Christianity</i> Paul Fathers	Gnosticism	Early Church and Church	
Session 4	<i>Islam</i> Pre-Islamic Arabia Sunna and hadiths	Muhammad	Qur'an	
Session 5	<i>Islam</i> Theology	Expansion and divisions	Laws and duties	

Presentation of the course:

Lectures (principally) and discussion

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

- A (continued) understanding of the early historical development of Judaism and an understanding of its key beliefs and an understanding of some of the key elements in the thought of Philo ;
- An understanding of two of the five great religions of the world, viz. Christianity and Islam, in terms of their birth and their early historical development ;
- An understanding of the key text(s) and key beliefs and some of the key practices in the case of Christianity and Islam.

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 *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Smart, N	<i>The World's Religions</i>	Cambridge, 1998
Johnson, Paul	<i>A History of Christianity</i>	New York, 1976
McManners, John (ed.)	<i>The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity</i>	Oxford, 2002
Waines, David	<i>An Introduction to Islam</i>	Cambridge, 1975
Rahman, F	<i>Islam</i>	Chicago, 1979

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