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## Five Great Religions of the World: Part 1

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<b>Credit / award</b>	Non-accredited		
<b>Start date</b>	26 February 2020	<b>End date</b>	25 March 2020
<b>Day and time</b>	Wednesdays, 18:00 – 19:30	<b>No of meetings</b>	5
<b>Venue</b>	Faculty of Divinity Sidgwick Site Cambridge		
<b>Tutor</b>	Dr Karim Esmail	<b>Course code</b>	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](mailto:zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 764637

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://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.

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## Course syllabus

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### 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

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Introduction ; Hinduism</b>	Vedic period : pre-Aryan and Aryan culture Renouncer tradition
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Hinduism</b> Classical period :	Growth of theistic tradition    Literature    Gods
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Buddhism</b> Scripture	The Buddha and his fundamental teachings
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Buddhism</b> Early development	Expansion    Division
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Judaism</b> 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 of Hinduism and Buddhism ;
- An understanding of the key text(s) in the case of Judaism.

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## 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 \*

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher and date</b>
Smart, N	<i>The World's Religions</i>	Cambridge, 1998
Flood, Gavin	<i>An Introduction to Hinduism</i>	Cambridge, 1996
Lipner, J	<i>Hindus: their beliefs and practices</i>	Routledge, 1998
Harvey, Peter	<i>An Introduction to Buddhism</i>	Cambridge, 1994
Gethin, Rupert	<i>The Foundations of Buddhism</i>	Oxford, 1998
de Lange, Nicholas	<i>Judaism</i>	Oxford, 1987
Jacobs, Louis	<i>The Jewish Religion: A Companion</i>	Oxford, 1995

**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:* 07 January 2020