

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA4071 Religion in Plural Societies: Violence, Peace, and Identity

Pre-requisites : Nil

No. of AUs. : 4

Contact Hours : 52

Course Aims

This course explores the role of religion in society, with particular relation to conflict, violence and peacebuilding processes. It begins by introducing methods and theories in the study of religion, but with a focus on religion in social and political contexts in plural societies. In the latter part of the course, you will embark on an investigation into the relationship between religion, violence and peacebuilding. This will be based on understanding the theological and social aspects of how religion relates to diversity, including notions of identity. There will be a consideration of a range of case studies, sources and texts, while you will be guided to analyse different kinds of arguments and practices that communities, intellectuals, and activists use to promote peace and violence.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Employ various theoretical perspectives regarding the nature and dynamics of religious traditions.
2. Engage with critical issues in understanding religion in contemporary plural societies from both theoretical and policy levels.
3. Explain the dynamics of fundamentalism and radicalisation in contemporary societies.
4. Discuss issues that are often associated with the religious doctrines and traditions that are seen to play a role in the promotion of violence and peace.

Course Content

1. Introduction: Religion in Society
2. What is Religion?
3. Studying Religion 1: Lived and Material Religion
4. Studying Religion 2: History and Comparison
5. Studying Religion 3: Gender and Power
6. Religion and Plurality: Secularism and Theological Typologies
7. Identity, Fundamentalism, and Violence
8. Violence and Peace in Islam

9. Violence and Peace in Christianity
10. Violence and Peace in Buddhism
11. Pathways to Terror and Radicalisation
12. Universal Peace and Interfaith Dialogue
13. Revision and Student Reports

Course Assessment

Participation	: 10%
Project Report	: 30%
Presentations	: 20%
Learning Journal	: 40%
Total	-----
	100%