



Academic degree level x Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master

Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

Program: Social Science

Course title.....Exploring Religions

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUIC

Course code.....ICGS 111

Department.....Social Science.

TQF 3 Course Specification

Section 1 General Information

1. Course Code and Title

In Thai ICGS 111 สํารวจศาสนา

In English ICGS 111 Exploring Religions

2. Number of Credits 4(4-0-8)

(Theory ...4. hrs. Practice hrs. Self-Study 8 hrs./week)

3. Curriculum and Course Type

3.1 Curriculum Bachelor Degree Program (International)

3.2 Course Type General Education

3.3 Specify Course's Literacy

- MU Literacy (Core Values, SEP, GE for Human Development)
- Health Literacy (Health, Sport)
- Digital Literacy (ICT, Applied Mathematics)
- Social and Humanity Literacy (Social, Humanity, Law, Ethics, Arts)
- Communication Literacy (language, Academic Communication)
- Science and Environmental Literacy (Applied Science for Life, Environmental

Responsibil-ity)

- Finance and Management Literacy (Finance, Management, Entrepreneur)

3.4 Specify Relationship between course and corporate culture

- M - Mastery รู้แจ้ง รู้จริง สมเหตุ สมผล
- A - Altruism มุ่งผลเพื่อผู้อื่น
- H - Harmony กลมกลืนกับสรรพสิ่ง
- I - Integrity มั่นคงยิ่งในคุณธรรม
- D - Determination แน่วแน่ทำ กล้าตัดสินใจ
- O - Originality สร้างสรรค์สิ่งใหม่
- L - Leadership ใฝ่ใจเป็นผู้นำ

4. Course Coordinator and Lecturer

4.1 Course Responsible Lecturers: Assistant Professor Dr. Ruchi Agarwal, Social Science Division, Mahidol University International College, 02-700-5000 ext 1703, ruchi.aga@mahidol.edu



emic degree level Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master

Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

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Department Social Science

4.2 Lecturers Assistant Professor Dr. Ruchi Agarwal, Social Science Division, Mahidol University International College, 02-700-5000 ext 1703, ruchi.aga@mahidol.edu

5. Trimester/Class Level

5.1 Trimester 1-3/ GE 100 Level

5.2 Number of Students Allowed Approximately 40 Students

6. Pre-requisite

No

7. Co-requisites

No

8. Study Site Location MUIC

9. Date of Preparation/Latest Revision of the Course Specifications

Day 25 Month April Year 2022



emic degree level Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master

Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

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Course title.....Exploring Religions

Course code.....ICGS 111

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUIC.....

Department Social Science

Section 2 Aims and Objectives

1. Course Goals

The goal of this course is to help students understand the major world religions, their origins, practices, contemporary developments, and the reasons for such developments. The course will help students equip themselves with knowledge necessary to appreciate religious and cultural diversity in the world. This will enable students to develop empathy for others and be able to communicate effectively with people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds

2. Objectives of Course Development/Revision

2.1 Course Objectives

This course aims to provide knowledge and abilities as follows:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the belief of different religions in the world
- Actively express one's own understanding of diverse religious beliefs and traditions
- Critically evaluate and appreciate the value of diverse faiths and practices in everyday lives of individuals.
- Demonstrate an understanding of origins and practices of each religion, their history, practices, and the relationship to other faiths.

2.2 Course-level Learning Outcomes: CLOs

On completion of the course, the students will be able to (CLOs)

CLO1 Demonstrate an understanding of the basic beliefs of different religions

CLO2 Identify changes in different religions overtime and the contemporary religious developments

CLO3 Explain and defend reasons which influence the changes in religions locally and globally

CLO4 Interrelate beliefs with social, and psychological factors and value religious diversity



emic degree level Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master

Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

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Course title.....Exploring Religions

Course code.....ICGS 111

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUI.....

Department Social Science

Section 3 Course Description and Implementation

1. Course Description

ศาสนาหลักของโลกได้แก่ ฮินดู พุทธ ซิกข์ ศาสนาต่างๆ ของชาวจีน ชินโต ยูดาเย คริสต์ และ อิสลาม ต้นกำเนิดของศาสนาทั้งสามกลุ่ม ได้แก่ ศาสนาที่เกิดในอินเดีย จีนและญี่ปุ่น และ ในตระกูลของอับบราฮัม การพัฒนาทางศาสนาร่วมสมัย ความหลากหลายทางศาสนาในปัจจุบัน

Major religions in the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Chinese religions, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; origins of the three religious groups, religions arising in India, religions of China and Japan, and the religions of the family of Abraham; similarities and differences; contemporary new religious developments and related issues; religious diversities present in the world.

2. Number of hours per semester

Theory (hours)	Practice (hours)	Self-study (hours)
48	-	96

3. Number of Hours per Week for Individual Advice

- 4 hours/week in classroom and an additional 4 hours per week as office hours will be allocated to allow students to learn, discuss, and practice with their instructors.
- Students could also make requests for appointments whenever necessary via email.



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Section 4: Development of the expected learning outcomes

1. A brief summary of the knowledge or skills expected to develop in students; the course-level expected learning outcomes (CLOs)

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

CLO1 Demonstrate an understanding of the basic beliefs of different religions

CLO2 Identify changes in different religions overtime and the contemporary religious developments

CLO3 Explain and defend reasons which influence the changes in religions locally and globally

CLO4 Interrelate beliefs with social, and psychological factors and value religious diversity

2. How to organize learning experiences to develop the knowledge or skills stated in number 1 and how to measure the learning outcomes

CLOs	Teaching and learning experience management				Learning outcomes measurements		
	Lecture	Class discussions	Case Study	Team Based Learning	MCQ	Group Activities	Presentations
CLO1	x	x			x		
CLO2	x	x	x	x	x	x	
CLO3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CLO4	x	x	x	x	x	x	x



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SECTION 5 LESSON PLAN AND EVALUATION

1. Lesson Plan

Teaching Period	Topics/Details	Number of hours		Methods: Teaching Media	Lecturer
		Theory*	Practice**		
1	Introduction: Religions. Characteristics of Religions	4		Lectures, Group discussions	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
2	Religions arising in India: Hinduism: Origins and Developments	4		Lectures, Group discussions	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
3	Religions arising in India: Buddhism: Origins Buddhist Schools: Theravada, Mahayana & Vajrayana	4		Lectures, Group discussions	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
4	Zen & Contemporary Developments in Buddhism	2 1:00 1.00		Lecture: online lessons Case study analysis: 1 case Group Discussions: 1 topic	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
5	Religions arising in India: Sikhism; Origin & Contemporary Developments	3 1		Lecture: online lessons Case study analysis: 1 case	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
6	Religions arising in China: Chinese Philosophies of Taoism & Confucianism	4		Lectures, Group discussions	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
7	Student Presentations	4		Presentation: PPT	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
8	Religions of the family of Abraham: Judaism	4		Lectures, Group discussions	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
9	Religions of the family of Abraham: Islam	4		Lectures, Group discussions	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
10	Baha'l Faith	4		Lectures, Group discussions	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
11	Religions of the family of Abraham: Christianity Origins, Practices, & Denominations	4		Lectures, Group discussions	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
12	Student Presentations, Revision for Final Exam	4		Presentation: ppt	Dr. Ruchi Agarwal
	Total hours	48	-		



emic degree level Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master

Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

Program.....General Education

Course title.....Exploring Religions

Course code.....ICGS 111

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUIC.....

Department Social Science

Teaching Period	Topics/Details	Number of hours		Methods: Teaching Media	Lecturer
		Theory*	Practice**		
	of the entire semester				

2. Plan for Assessment of Expected Course-Level Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

2.1 Measurement and Evaluation of learning achievement

A. Formative Assessment

Small Group Discussions

Class Participation

B. Summative Assessment

(1) Tool and weight for measurement and evaluation

Learning Outcomes	Evaluation Method*			Weight (Percentage)
	MCQ	Class Participatio	Group Presentation	
CLO1 Students will be able to understand the basic beliefs of different religions.	20	2.5	-	22.5
CLO2 Students will be able to identify changes in different religions overtime	20	2.5	5	27.5
CLO3 Students will be able to explain and defend reasons which influence the changes in religions	20	2.5	5	32.5
CLO4 Students will be able to interrelate beliefs with social, and psychological factors and the religious diversity	20	2.5	-	25
รวม	80	10	10	100

(2) Measurement and evaluation



Academic degree level Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master
 Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

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Course code.....ICGS 111

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUIC.....
Department Social Science

The assignments will be evaluated by the instructor of the course based on a 100-point scale. At the conclusion of the term a final grade based on the following grading system:

Grade	Achievement	Final score (% range)
A	Excellent	90-100
B+	Very Good	85-89
B	Good	80-84
C+	Fairly Good	75-79
C	Fair	70-74
D+	Poor	65-69
D	Very Poor	60-64
F	Fail	Less than 60

(3) Re-examination (if the course allows any)

A re-examination may be given when a student misses one of the examinations. A make-up examination will be allowed if the student missed the exam due to a death in the immediate family or was hospitalized for medical uses.

3. Students' Appeal

- Direct appeal to the instructor

In case of an unagreeable resolution to the issue, the student can later appeal to the Divisional Chair and the Office of the Academic Affairs.



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Section 6 Teaching Resources

1. Required Texts

- 1.) Gwynne Paul (2017), *World Religions in Practice: A Comparative Introduction*, John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- 2.) Warren Matthews (2013), *World Religions*, 7th Edition, Wadsworth Cenage Learning.

2. Suggested Materials

- 1.) Halverson, Dean. (1996) The Compact Guide to World Religions. Bloomington: Bethany House Publishers.
- 2.) Featured Religions and Beliefs <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

3. Other Resources (if any)

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emic degree level Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master

Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

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Course code.....ICGS 111

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUIC.....

Department Social Science

Section 7 Evaluation and Improvement of Course Implementation

1. Strategy for Course Effectiveness Evaluation by Students

- Mid-trimester feedback that are anonymous from students
- Formal student evaluations

2. Strategy for Teaching Evaluation

- Peer observation
- Student feedback and Course evaluation

3. Teaching Improvement

- Student feedback and Course evaluation

4. Verification of Standard of Learning Outcome for the Course

- Written examinations, individual presentations, and group presentation

5. Revision Process and Improvement Plan for Course Effectiveness

- Student feedback and Course evaluation



Relations between the course and the General Education

Table 1 Relations between CLOs and MU-GE Module LOs (numbers in the table = Sub LOs)

(Course Code) ICGS 111	(MU-GE LOs)				
	MLO1	MLO2	MLO3	MLO4	MLO5
CLO1 To understand the basic beliefs of different religions	1.1	2.3	3.6	4.8	
CLO2 To identify changes in different religions overtime		2.3	3.6	4.8	5.9
CLO3 To explain and defend reasons which influence the changes in religions		2.3 2.5	3.6	4.8	5.9
CLO4 To interrelate beliefs with social, and psychological factors and the religious diversity	1.1	2.3	3.6	4.8	5.9

Table 2 LOs that the course is responsible for

MU-GE LOs	Sub LOs
MLO1.1 create & construct an argument effectively as well as identify, critique and evaluate the logic & validity of arguments	1.1 identify concepts related to the context of learned issues/topics
	1.2 demonstrate ICT literacy: use appropriate technology to find, evaluate, and ethically use information
MLO1.2 select & use techniques and methods to solve open-ended, ill-defined and multistep problems	2.3 apply concept of process management to solve problems
MLO2.3 acquire specific strategies & skills within a particular discipline and adapt them to a new problem or situation	3.1 connect, synthesize and/or transform ideas or solutions within a particular framework



emic degree level Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master

Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

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Course title.....Exploring Religions

Course code.....ICGS 111

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUIC.....

Department Social Science

MLO2.5 explore and situate oneself in a new physical environment and intellectual perspectives	5.1 demonstrate cultural competencies and adaptabilities in different working environments
MLO3.6 act autonomously within context of relationships to others, law, rules, codes, and values	6.4 work effectively in diverse team (and multi-cultural settings)
MLO4.8 use a variety of means/ technologies to communicate effectively and purposefully	8.1 communicate/present ideas effectively both oral & written forms, proper to a range of audience groups, such as verbal discussion with peers, project report.
	8.2 prepare a purposeful oral presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.
MLO5.9 collaborate and work affectively as part of a student group/team member to arrive at the team shared-goals in time	9.1 collaborate effectively with others as a responsible team member to achieve team goals in time
	9.2 interact with others respectfully, whether as a team member or leader, to create a productive teamwork



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MU-GE Module LOs: At the end of studying MU-GE Module, successful students will be able to

Competences	LOs:	Sub LOs:
1. Critical thinking & Analysis: Use various sources and methods to collect and manage data & information and make a logical judgement and decision to arrive at a solution or problem solving relevant to real-world issues/problems	1. Create & construct an argument effectively as well as identify, critique and evaluate the logic & validity of arguments	1. Identify concepts related to the context of learned issues/topics 2. Demonstrate ICT literacy: use appropriate technology to find, evaluate, and ethically used information 3. Collect, analyze, synthesize data, & evaluate information and ideas from multiple sources relevant to issues/problems 4. Synthesize information to arrive at logical reasoning
	2. Select & use techniques and methods to solve open-ended, ill-defined and multistep problems	1. Apply simple mathematical methods to the solution of 'real-world' problems 2. Make judgement & decision through correct analysis, inferences, and evaluations on quantitative basis and multiple perspectives 3. Apply concept of process management to solve problems
2. Creativity & Innovation: Show capability to initiate alternative/ new ways of thinking, doing things or solving problems to improve his/her or team solutions/ results by applying the evidence-based process management concepts	3. Acquire specific strategies & skills within a particular discipline and adapt them to a new problem or situation	1. Connect, synthesize and/or transform ideas or solutions within a particular framework 2. Integrate alternative, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas in the solution of a problem or question
	4. Create a novel or unique ideas, question, format, or product within a particular framework	1. Create an original explanation or solution to the issues/problems 2. Articulate the rationale for & consequences of his/her solution- identify opportunities & risk 3. Implement innovation through process management approach



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Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

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Course title.....Exploring Religions

Course code.....ICGS 111

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUIC.....

Department Social Science

Competences	LOs:	Sub LOs:
	5. Explore and situate oneself in a new physical environment and intellectual perspectives	1. Demonstrate cultural competencies and adaptabilities in different working environments 2. Resort to multi-dimensional settings and tools to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to the problems or situation at hand
3. Global perspectives & Ethics: Express one's own ideas, interact with others, guide or lead team, as proper, as an ethically- engaged and responsible member of the society	6. act autonomously within context of relationships to others, law, rules, codes, and values	1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles upon which sustainable ecosystems and societies are built 2. Identify the national & global challenges associated with current economic, political, and social systems 3. Exhibit characteristics of responsible citizenship 4. Work effectively in diverse team (and multi-cultural settings)
	7. Apply ethical frameworks or principles and consider their implications in his/her decision-making and interacting with others	1. Identify ethical issues and recognize different viewpoint and ideologies 2. Guide & lead others 3. Apply principles of ethical leadership, collaborative engagement, and respect diversity
4. Communication: Communicate effectively and confidently using oral, visual, and written language	8. Use a variety of means/ technologies to communicate effectively and purposefully; e.g., share information/ knowledge, express ideas, demonstrate or create individual & group product, etc.	1. Communicate/present ideas effectively both oral & written forms to appropriate audience, such as verbal discussion with peers, and written project reports. 2. Prepare a purposeful oral presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors. 3. Prepare written documents to express ideas/solutions using different writing technologies, and mixing texts, data, and images. 4. Demonstrate competence in a second or additional language



emic degree level Bachelor Graduate Diploma Master

Higher Graduate Diploma Doctor

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Course title.....Exploring Religions

Course code.....ICGS 111

Faculty / College / Institute.....MUIC.....

Department Social Science

Competences	LOs:	Sub LOs:
5. Collaboration and Working with team: Collaborate and work effectively with team to arrive at team goals	9. Collaborate and work effectively as part of a student group/team member to arrive at the team shared-goals in time	1. Collaborate effectively with others as a responsible team member to achieve team goals in time 2. Interact with others respectfully, either as a team member or leader, to create a productive teamwork