

Patel Memorial National College

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Department of Religious Studies

As per the syllabus prescribed by Punjabi University Patiala, under the faculty of Social Sciences, students are taught the subject of religious study. In order to understand the various aspects of religion at the academic level, it has become a subject of study in universities and colleges nowadays.

This subject, which is currently being taught at various levels in the field of "Comparative Studies of Religion", provides students with a basic knowledge of the origin of the major religions of the world, their scriptures and religious doctrines. All religions convey the message of universal communication and living a high moral of life; by learning about which, a student could acquire the high standard of living and contribute to the formation of a good society.

By studying this subject, students could be employed as teachers, preachers, researchers and religious journalists. Moreover, this subject has become important for the students preparing for various competitive examinations in Punjab in these days.

The outcomes of the course content prescribed by the Punjabi University, Patiala are as follows:

B. A.-I

Semester-I: Sikhism

Historic aspects and Sikh scriptures, Martyrdom Traditions and Influences, and Sikh Institutions

In this semester, the students will gain knowledge about the historical aspects of Sikhism as well as the place, editing and 'Banikars' of eternal Guru, Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. They also get a basic information about the 'Dasam Granth Sahib' along with this. In the same semester, the students learned about the effects of the rich martyrdom tradition of Sikhism and history of the major concepts of Sikhism like Gurudwara, Miri-Piri and Khalsa.

Semester-II: Indian Religion

Vedic resolution, Jainism, Buddhism and Religious Ceremonies

In this semester, where students get knowledge about Vedic religion like Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samveda and Athrava Veda, they will get information about three main Vedic Gods, i.e., Agni, Indera, Rudra as well as religious rituals of this religion.

In the second part of the paper, the students get a basic information about the life, teachings and major principles of Lord Mahavira of Jainism as well as the same of Lord Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. In addition to this, students learn about birth and death rites related to the above three religions.

B. A.-II

Semester-III: Semitic Religion



Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Zoroastrianism

In this semester, students are introduced to the four major religions of Semitic Tradition (*Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Zoroastrianism*). During this course, students are taught about their teachings and their scriptures (The Bible, The Quran and The JandAvesta).

Semester-IV: Medieval and Modern Religious Movements

Bhagti Movement and Sufism, Major Indian religious movements of the nineteenth century and Punjab religious movements

In this semester, students are introduced to the life and teachings of the leading devotee in the devotional movements; and to the origins and developments of the Sufism. Students are introduced to the causes of origin and functions of the religious movements occurred in various regions of India during 19th century and beginning of major religious movements in the Punjab.

B. A.-III

Semester-V: Ancient Religion, Religious rites and objectives

Ancient Religion, Religious rites and objectives

In this semester, students are introduced to the ancient man and their religion, and causes of origin of their religion. Along with this, students are taught about the believes of the ancient (Animism, Mana, Totem) and their fundamental religious expressions (Magic, Mith, Taboo). Students are taught about the religion and, definition and themes of philosophy. Along with this, religious rites of different religions (related to birth, religion entry, funnel ceremony, etc.) and their purposes are taught to them.

Semester-VI: Sikh Religion Theory and Institutions

Basic sources of Sikhism, concepts of Sikhism and the institutions

This semester provides brief introduction to the basic sources of Sikhism such as Shri Guru Granth Sahib, Varan Bhai Gurdas and Primary Verses. In the same semester the students are introduced to the basics of Sikhism and, the purpose and functions of the institutions of Sikhism like Akal Takhat, Miri-Piri, Khalsa, Sarbat Khalsa, etc.

Through this subject of religious studies, students are encouraged to live a moral life by learning about the major religions of India, their founders, meanings and their aims. This is how students get fundamental information about the major religion.

