

M.Th. in RELIGIONS

SEMESTER-I

Course Code	Course Title	L - T - P	Credits
MTh/GPT-700	Research Methodology	2 - 0 - 0	2
MTh/Rel-717	Introduction to Methods in the Study of Religions	4 - 0 - 0	4
MTh/Rel-718	Texts Dealing with Religious Practices and Beliefs: Sanskrit	4 - 0 - 0	4
MTh/PM-701	Practical Ministry	0 - 0 - 4	2
	Total Credits	10 - 0 - 4	12

SEMESTER-II

Course Code	Course Title	L - T - P	Credits
MTh/Rel-719	Major Elements in the Development in Hindu Tradition	4 - 0 - 0	4
MTh/Rel-720	Survey of Primal Religions	4 - 0 - 0	4
MTh/PM-702	Practical Ministry	0 - 0 - 4	2
	Total Credits	8 - 0 - 4	10

SEMESTER-III

Course Code	Course Title	L - T - P	Credits
MTh/Rel-817	Bhakti in Hinduism, Islam and Christianity	4 - 0 - 0	4
MTh/Rel-818	Introduction to Indian Philosophy	4 - 0 - 0	4
MTh/ID-800	Inter-Disciplinary Seminar	2 - 0 - 0	2
	Total Credits	10 - 0 - 0	10

SEMESTER-IV

Course Code	Course Title	L - T - P	Credits
MTh/Rel-819	Religious Basis for Social Reform Movements	2 - 0 - 0	2
Relevant Course Code & Number	Any one course from the existing courses from any of these branches: OT/NT/Theology/Christian Ministry/ History of Christianity/ Missiology	2 - 0 - 0	2
MTh/Rel-899	Thesis		15
	Total Credits	4 - 0 - 0	19

Course Title: Research Methodology

Course Code: MTh/GPT-700

Credits (2-0-0) 2

Course Objective: To help students with the preparation of Course Research Assignments, Theses and Dissertations.

Course Outlines:

- 1. Research and the Researcher.**
- 2. Basic Elements of a Research Proposal.**
- 3. Collecting and Organizing Materials.**
- 4. Analysis and Evaluation of Materials.**
- 5. Interrogation of a Text.**
- 6. Footnotes, Endnotes, Text notes, Bibliographical Entries and Reference Abbreviations.**
- 7. The Use of Quotations.**
- 8. Illustrative Materials and Tables.**
- 9. Format of the Research Report.**
- 10. Preparation of Book Reviews/Reports.**

Reference:

1. Anderson, Jonathan, Berry H. Durston & Millicent Poole (1970), *Thesis and Assignment Writing*, Wiley Eastern, New Delhi.
2. Booth, Wayne C, Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams (1995), *The Craft of Research*, University of Chicago, Chicago.
3. Campbell, William G. (1975), *Form and Style In Thesis Writing*, Houghton Mifflin Co, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
4. Denzin, Normank and Yvonna S. Lincoln, (eds). 1994, "*Handbook of Qualitative Research*," Thousand Oaks/London/New Delhi, Sage.
5. Kothari, C.R. *Research Methodology, Methods and Techniques* (1990), Wiley Eastern, New Delhi.
6. Joseph, A. Antony (1986), *Methodology for Research, Guide for Writing Dissertations, Theses and Scientific Papers*, Theological Publications of India, Bangalore.
7. Mabry Hunter, P (2004), *A Manual for Researchers and Writers of Course Assignments, Theses, Dissertations and Other Research Reports*, The Board of Theological Education of Senate of Serampore College, Miller's Road, Bangalore, 560046.
8. Mauch, James E and Jack W. Birch, (1998), "*Guide to the Successful Thesis and Dissertation- A Handbook for Students and Faculty*," Marcel Dekker, Inc, New York.
9. Sjoberg, Gideon & Roger Nett, (1977), *A Methodology for Social Research*, Harper & Row, New York.

Course Title: Introduction to Methods in the study of Religions

Course Code: MTh/Rel-717

Credits (4-0-0) 4

Objectives:

- a. To analyze and evaluate various methodological approaches to the study of religion.
- b. To study this course in the Indian approach to the study of religion.
- c. To evaluate the study of other religions undertaken by Christian scholars.

Outlines:

- I. Historical survey of the developments in the study of religion from mid 19th century to the present day.
 - a. Comparative science of study of religions: F. Max Muller.
 - b. Spencor, Tylor and Frazer and Anthropological Approaches.
 - c. Emil Durkheim, Weber etc. and Sociological Approaches.
 - d. James, Freud, Jung etc. and Psychological Approaches.
 - e. Rudolph otto, Vander etc and Phenomenological approaches.
 - f. Indian Approaches to the study of religion, (S. Radhakrishnan and Mahatma Gandhi).
 - g. Contemporary Approaches to the study of religion (Mircea Eliade, Ninian smart etc.)

- II. Evaluate the study of other religions undertaken by Christian scholars.
 1. R. Panikkar - "Unknown Christ of Hinduism"
 2. K. Cragg - His approach to the study of Islam.
 3. John Hick - "Every Marga leads to the same goal."
 4. A.G. Hogg - Karma and Redemption.
 5. J.N. Farguahar - Crown of Hinduism.

References:

- Basu, Jogiraj, India of the Age of the Brahmanas,
Calcutta: Sanskrit Pustak Bhandar, 1969.
- Bhandarkar, R. G. Vaisnavism, Saivism and Major Religious System,
Varanasi: Indological Book house, 1965
- Bhagava, P.L., Vedic Religion and culture. An Exposition of Distinct facets,
New Delhi: D.K. Printworld (P) Ltd., 1994.
- Chackalackal, Saju, Ramayana and the Indian Ideal,
Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 1992.
- Chakravarti, Chintaharan, Tantras, Studies on their Religion and Literature,
Calcutta: Punthi Pustak 1972.
- Chatterjee, Satischandra, The Fundamental of Hinduism, A Philosophical study,
Calcutta: Calcutta University Press, 1970.
- Chatterjee, S.C., An Introduction to Indian Philosophy,
and D.M. Datta, Calcutta: Calcutta University Press, 1968.
- Dandekar, R.N., Insights into Hinduism, Delhi: Ajanta Publications, 1979.
- De Smet R. and J. Neuner, Religious Hinduism, 4th revised edition, Bandra: St. Paul's, 1996.
- Gonda, J., Visnuism and Sivaism: A comparison,
New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1984.
- Griswold, H.D., The Religion of the Rig Veda, Delhi: Motilal Benarasidas, 1971.
- Kane, Pandurang Vaman, History of Dharmasastra (Ancient and Medieval Religious and Civil
Law in India) Poona: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, 1974.
- Klostermaier, K., A Survey of Hinduism, New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1990.
- Lipner, J., Hindus: Their Religious beliefs and Practices;
London: Routledge, 1994.
- Macdonell, Arthur A., A History of Sanskrit Literature (2 edition)
Delhi: Motilal Benarasidas, 1971.
- Mahadevan, T.M.P., Outlines of Hinduism, Bombay: Chetna Publishing, 1977.

Course Title: Texts Dealing with Religious Practices and Beliefs: Sanskrit

Course Code: MTh/Rel -718

Credits (4-0-0) 4

Objectives:

1. To translate, understand and briefly exegete the selected religious texts (From Sanskrit to English).
2. To write brief notes (grammatical, exegetical etc.)
3. To comprehend unseen passages.
4. To get training in the proper method to study further Sanskrit texts in future, in order to grasp the different branches of Hinduism in their original series.

Outlines:

1. Study of Grammar and Syntax

- a. Antoine, R. : A Sanskrit Manual Part I.
- b. Antoine, R. : A Sanskrit Manual Part II

(Excluding Third, Fifth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Conjugation)

2. Prescribed Texts

- a. Rig Vedic Hymns: Agni I. 1, Indra II. 2, Varuna VII. 86, Soma VIII. 48, Purusha X. 90, Nasidiya X. 129.
- b. Brhadaranyaka Upanishad III, Vol. VIII. 1-12 and IV. V. 1-15.
- c. Bhagavadgita : Chapters II and XVIII
- d. Valmiki Ramayana, Aranyakanda, Sarga 60 and 61.
- e. Upanayan – Paddhati (ed. Kedara Nath Mirza, pp. 34-64, Publisher Durga Pustak Bhandar, 572, A/2 kakkar Nagar, Dariyabad, Allahabad).
- f. John's Gospel – Chapter -14.

Rapid Reading

- a. Sanskrit Gadya Padya Sangraha, Chowkhamba series, pp. 55-109
- b. Unseen Passages of Similar standard to be included, for translation and comprehension.

Course Title: Practical Ministry

Course Code: MTh/PM-701

Credit (0-0-4) 2

Course Outline:

Introduction:

- 1 What is Practical Ministry?**
- 2 The Importance of Practical Ministry.**
- 3 The Goal of Practical Ministry.**
- 4 The Scope of Practical Ministry.**

Activities of Practical Ministry:

- 1. Ministry of Preaching:**
Preaching from the Scriptures for Spiritual, Moral and Ethical upliftment of the people.
- 2. Ministry of Feeding:**
Involving in the Food distribution service of Yesu Darbar Ministry.
- 3. Ministry of Visiting the Sick:**
Hospital Visitation and House Visitation.
- 4. Ministry of Counseling:**
Youth Counseling, Personal Counseling, Family Counseling, Marriage Counseling etc. to the students and the families in the campus and in the neighboring localities.
- 5 Ministry of Prayer:**
Conducting Prayer Meetings and Individual Prayer Sessions.
- 6. Ministry of Social Action:**
Campus Cleaning, Plantation and Environmental Care.

Course Title: Major Elements in the Development of Hindu Tradition

Course Code: MTh/Rel -719

Credits (4-0-0) 4

Objectives:

- a. To evaluate, understand and interpret major elements in the development of the religious tradition of Hindu neighbors.
- b. To appreciate the religious faith and tradition of the Hindu neighbor and to overcome possible misconceptions of their beliefs and practices.
- c. To receive insights from Hinduism for the enrichment of their own Christian faith.

Outlines:

1. Basic Characteristics of Hinduism.
2. Brief historical overview of the development of the tradition.
3. The religion of the Indus Valley Civilization and its influence on later Hinduism.
4. The Religion of the Aryans prior to their arrival in India.
5. Samhitas and the duties.
6. Brahmanas and the Scarifies.
7. Aranyakas the Upanisads etc.
8. Hindu Samskaras
9. Dharma – Sastras
10. Itihasa – Ramayana and Mahabharata.
11. The Bhagavad-Gita
12. Puranas.
13. The Agamas, Vaisnava, Saiva and Sakta Schools.
14. Indian Six System of Philosophy.
15. Worship and Festivals.
16. The Ethics: Karma – Samsaras, Purushartha, Varnashrama Dhrma.
17. Popular Bhakti, Village Hinduism.

References:

- Aleaz, K.P., The Relevance of Relation in Sankaras Advaita Vedanta,
Delhi: Kant Publication, 1996.
- Anand, Subhash, Major Hindu Festivals: A Christian Appreciation,
Bandra: St. Paul Publications, 1991.
- Basham, A.L., (ed.) The cultural History of India, London: OUP, 1975.
The origins and Development of Classical.
Hinduism, London; Oxford University Press, 1990.

Course Title: Survey of Primal Religions

Course Code: MTh/Rel -720

Credits (4-0-0) 4

Objectives:

1. To understand and appreciate the rich religious heritage of the Tribals/Primitive people of India.
2. To understand the problems faced by the Tribals in India.
3. To have a meaningful study and viable approach to the study of Primal religions in India.

Outlines:

I. Concept of God/Deities in the Primal Religions

1. The concept of supreme God/Impersonal God, Supernatural Power, concept of Mana, Omens, Totem etc.
2. Contributions to Holistic Traditions: Anthropology in India.
3. Study of the Animistic form of the Supernatural: Spirits, relation to nature etc.
4. Concept of Fetish, Toboo, Magic, Divination etc.
5. Worship of other deities and Ancestor Worship.
6. Sacrifice, Dance, myths, Prayers etc.

II. Rituals and Practices

2. Observance of the festivals
3. Rites Connected with life's cycles: Birth, Puerty, Marriage, Death etc.
4. Religious functionaries: Medicine Man, Magician, Sorcerer, Shaman, Priest, Clan or Community.

III. Tribal Religion

1. Study of Folklores, beliefs and religious practices.
2. Customary laws and social practices.
3. Art and cultures of the Tribal.
4. Tribal Awakening, Development and conflicts.
5. Tribal Religion and Tribal Theology.

References:

- Bettis, J.D. (ed.) Phenomenology of Religion, New York: harper & Raw 1969.
- Dube, S.C. (ed.), Tribal heritage of India, vol. II, Vikas publishing House: 1977.
- Baird, R.D., (ed.), Methodological Issue in Religious Studies
Chicago: New Horizon Press, 1975.
- Banton, M., (ed.) Anthropological Approaches to the study of religions,
London: Tavistock, 1966.
- Benko, L., (ed.), Science of Religion: studies in Methodology,
The Hague: Mouton, 1979.
- Berger, P.L., The social Reality of Religion, London: Fabernad Faber, 1969.
The Phenomenological Method, Mumen VI, 1979.
- Durkheim, Emile The elementary Forms of the Religious life,
New York: Collier Book, Edition, 1961.
- Cragg, Kenneth, The Call of the Minaret, New York, OUP, 1956.
- Eliade, M., and J.M., (ed.), The History of Religions, Essays in Methodology,
Chicago: Kitagewa, University Press, 1959.
- Frazer, James George, The Magic Art and the Evolution of Kings, London: Macmillan, 1951.
- Frend, Sigmund, The Standard Edition of the complete Psychological works of
Sigmund Freud; London: Hogarth Press, 1957.
- James, William, The Variety of Religious Experiences: A study in Human nature, New
York: New American Library, 1958.
- Muller F. Max, Essays on the Science of Religion
London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1867
- Otto, R., The Idea of the Holy, London: Oxford Universtiy Press, 1923.

Course Title: Practical Ministry

Course Code: MTh/PM-702

Credit (0-0-4) 2

Course Outline:

Introduction:

- 1 The Importance of Practical Ministry.**
- 2 The Goal of Practical Ministry.**
- 3 The Scope of Practical Ministry.**

Activities of Practical Ministry:

1. Ministry of Preaching:

Preaching from the Scriptures for Spiritual, Moral and Ethical upliftment of the people.

2. Ministry of Feeding:

Involving in the Food distribution service of Yeshu Darbar Ministry.

3. Ministry of Visiting the Sick:

Hospital Visitation and House Visitation.

4. Ministry of Counseling:

Youth Counseling, Personal Counseling, Family Counseling, Marriage Counseling etc. to the students and the families in the campus and in the neighboring localities.

5 Ministry of Prayer:

Conducting Prayer Meetings and Individual Prayer Sessions.

6. Ministry of Social Action:

Campus Cleaning, Plantation and Environmental Care.

Course Title: Bhakti in Hinduism, Islam and Christianity

Course Code: MTh/Rel -817

Credits (4-0-0) 4

Objectives:

1. To examine, evaluate and understand the various elements which constitute personal devotion (Bhakti) in the Hindu religious tradition.
2. To compose these elements and try to see it in Christian and Muslim (sufi) devotional elements.

Outlines:

1. General Introduction to Devotional Religion.
2. Hindu Devotional Religion (Bhakti)
 - a. Development of Bhakti Movements.
 - b. Bhakti in Bhagavadgita.
 - c. Bhakti in Bhagavata Purana.
 - d. Saiva Bhaktas – Tamil Saivism, Kashmiri Saivism and Lingayats.
 - e. Vaisnava Bhakti – its origin and development. Rama Bhakti, Krishna Bhakti, Alvars, Maratha Bhaktas, etc.
 - f. Sakta Bhakti – Bhakti in Sant Tradition, Bhakti in Renascent Hinduism.
3. Islamic Devotional Religion (Sufism)
 - a. Sufism as a Devotional Path
 - b. Devotion of Sufi Saints.
4. Christian Devotional Religion
 - a. Christian Mysticism as a Devotional Path.
 - b. Devotion of Christian mystics.
5. Critical analysis of common and divergent elements in the devotional traditions of Hinduism Islam and Christianity.

References:

- Brown, D., A Guide to religions, TEF study Guide-12, London: ISPCK, 1975.
- Daniel P.S. & others, Religious Traditions of India, Delhi: Motilal Benarsidas 1972.
- Gibb, H.A.R., Islam: A Historical Survey, Madras: CLS/HMI, 1979.
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- Ayrookuzhiel, A.M. Abraham, The Sacred in Popular Hinduism: An Empirical Study in Chirakkal, North Malabar, Bangalore/Madras: CISRS/CLS, 1983.
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- Buck, C.H., Faiths, Fairs and Festivals of India, Calcutta: Thacker spink & Co. 1917.
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- Dubois, Abbe. J.A., Hindu Manners, Customs and Ceremonies, Delhi: Asian Educational Service, 1983.
- Manikar, T.G., A comparative Study of the commentaries on the Bhagavadgita: Motilal Benarsidas, 1969.
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- Ranade, R.D., A Constructive Survey of Upanishad Philosophy, Bombay: Bhatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1968.
- The Bhagavadgita as a Philosophy of God Relization, Bombay: Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, 1982.
- Mysticism in Maharastra, Delhi: Motilal Benarsidas, 1982.
- Whitefield, The Village Goddess in South India.
- Wilmore, Theodore, Dravidian Gods in Modern Hinduism New Delhi: Asian Educational Service, 1984.

Course Title: Introduction to Indian Philosophy

Course Code: MTh/Rel -818

Credits (4-0-0) 4

Objectives:

1. To help the students to get a good knowledge of the Six orthodox systems of Indian Philosophy.
2. To help the candidates to identify relevant contemporary issues related to six systems.

Outlines:

1. An analysis of the six Astika systems of Indian Philosophy
 - a. Nyaya
 - b. Vaisesika
 - c. Samkhya
 - d. Yoga
 - e. Mimamsa
 - f. Vedanta
 - i. Advaita Vedanta of Sankaracharya
 - ii. Visistadvaita of Ramanujacharya
 - iii. Dvaita Vedanta of Madhvacharya.
 - iv. Swami Vivekananda's Practical Vedanta.
2. Relevant – contemporary Issues related to the Siddhantam.
 - a. Sabda Pramana
 - b. The other five Pramanas.
 - c. The relation between reason and revelation.
 - d. Re-interpretation of classical concepts to counter issues such as Caste, Exclusivism, Communalism and Fundamentalism.
3. The contribution of Indian Christian Theologians in relation to Siddhantam.
 - a. Nebemiah Goreh
 - b. Krishan Mohan Banerjee
 - c. A.J. Appasamy, A.P. Nirmal, K.P. Aleaz.
4. Indian Christian thought in the context of Advaita Vedanta:
 - a. Brahmabandhav Upadhyaya
 - b. Raimundo Panikkar
 - c. Abhishiktananda
 - d. K.P. Aleaz.
5. Indian Christian Thought in the context of Visistadvaita Vedanta.
 - a. A.J. Appasamy
 - b. Dhanjibhai Fakirbhai

Course Title: Inter-Disciplinary Seminar

Course Code: MTh/ID-800

Credit (2-0-0) 2

Objectives:

1. To assign to the students certain important topics from various branches of theological studies.
2. To make the students of different branches write research papers and present Seminar Papers from the perspective of one's own discipline of which one is a student.
3. Students of various branches will sit together and make a creative discussion on the Issue/topic presented in the seminar class.

Areas of study:

1. Issues from the Old Testament
2. Issues from the New Testament
3. Christian Theological Issues
4. Religious Issues
5. Historical Issues
6. Christian Ministerial Issues
7. Missiological Issues
8. Issues in Communication
9. Sociological Issues
10. Gender Issues
11. Ethical & Environmental Issues

Course Title: Religious Basis for Social Reform Movements

Course Code: MTh/Rel-819

Credits (2-0-0) 2

Objectives:

2. To help the students to have an understanding of the religious basis of the Major Social reform Movements in Modern India.
3. To identify the way in which religion can be a driving force in social reform.

Outlines:

1. The religious basis of social reforms by
 - a. Brahma Samaj
 - b. Arya Samaj
 - c. Sir Sayad Ahmmad Khan and Aligarh Movement
2. The study of the practical Vedanta of Swami Vivekananda.
3. A study of the Sarvodaya and Bhoodan Movements and religious influences on Mahatma Gandhi's life and work.
4. The contribution of Mohammad Iqbal.
5. The Reforms brought by Singh Sabha Movement in Gurudwaras and Sikh Religions.
6. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Neo Buddhist Movements in India.
7. The Role of Hindutva: a critical study.
8. An evolution of the Religious contributions in Social Reform.

References:

- Aleaz, K., P., Harmony of Religious. The Relevance of Swami Vivekananda, Calcutta: Punthi Pustak, 1999.
- Chakavorty, Jagannath, Studies in the Bengal Renaissance, Calcutta: University of Calcutta, 1968.
- Gandhi, M.,K., Servodaya ed. By Bharatna Kumarappa, Ahmedabad: Navjivan Publishing Home, 1958
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- Goods, W.D., Religion among the primitives, Glencoe, the free press, 1964.
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- Sebastian Karoteprel and Deepali Danda (eds.) The Tribals of North East India, Calcutta: Firma KLM, 1984.
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- Niyogi, Tushar K., Folk Tales and Myths of Riang and Tripuri Communities: A study of their Cultural Profile, Calcutta: Anthropological Survey, 1983.
- Roy Sarat Chandra, Oraon Religion and Customs, Calcutta: Editions India, 1972.
- Walter G. Griffiths, The Kol Tribal of Central India, Calcutta: the Asiatic Society, 1993.