TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

Anthropology: Cultures & Religious Traditions

UGRA_000509

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	2
Teacher responsible	Constantin Starhemberg - constantin.starhemberg@esade.edu

Course Goals

1) Learning the main mindsets, values and rules of the world's major religions and their influence in the different societies.
2) Coming to a deep understanding of the different religious traditions through the contemplation of images, listening of music and analysis of writings of religions.
3) Having an idea of the influence of religions in the present global world.

Previous knowledge

Capacity to discuss about values and mindsets based on texts, images and music.

Prerequisits

Interest in cultures and religious traditions.

Teaching methodology

- Analysis and discussion of images and writings from the different religions.
- Individual analysis of readings on religions and their influence in society and culture.
- Explanation of the different religious traditions and their influence in societies today, through guest speakers who are believers of each religion.
- Dialogue in class among students.
- Some spiritual practices from religious traditions.

Description

Course contribution to program

A manager in a global world needs to have a clear idea of the mindsets, values and rules that shape the different societies where firms operate. Religions stand at the heart of such societies. A deep insight on the institutions, rules and values of these religious traditions is an excellent tool to properly understand the peculiarities of societies.
However, a religious tradition cannot be deeply understood if one pretends to

analyze it "from the outside". Images and texts from a religious tradition are cultural objects that need to be experimented in order to understand the root or last inspiration of religions. These experiments - proposed in the course- are exercises of cultural adaptation that develop in the participants necessary skills to be successful and responsible global managers.

Short description

The course aims to bring students closer to the various religious traditions of our global world. This is being done through the discipline of anthropology, which tries to understand different cultures around the world in their particular contexts. The attempt of this course is to comprehend cultures and their respective religious traditions in their own terms, while at the same time being open for a plural dialogue with diverse perspectives. So students will have to prepare themselves on each religon through contemplating the music, images, sacred texts and history of that particular religion before coming to class. During the session, we will both discuss together the insights gained from that religion and receive further learnings through the presentation of a guest speaker acquainted with that religion (being a believer and practicioner, for instance).
Overall, the course is about approximating ourselves to the cultural dimension of our global society through a deep learning experience of the diverse religions that make it up.

Bibliography

Raimon Ribera (2013)- condensed by Pep Mària (2023), Judaism Highlights (Document)
Raimon Ribera (2013)- condensed by Pep Mària (2023), Christianity Highlights (Document)
Raimon Ribera (2013)- condensed by Pep Mària (2023), Islam Highlights (Document)
Raimon Ribera (2013)- condensed by Pep Mària (2023), Hinduism Highlights (Document)
Raimon Ribera (2013)- condensed by Pep Mària (2023), Buddhism Highlights (Document)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates
In class we will each session have a one-class dialogue.

Threads
As part of participation and attendance, there might be pre-class and/or in-class threads to hand in.

Readings
There will be readings for each session, on the respective religions or connected themes.

Essays
One essay-like final report and one final survey will have to be written.

Interaction with visiting guest professionals
In 5 sessions there will be guest speakers of the respective religions, with opportunity to ask questions.

Content

#	Topic
1	Introduction: General introduction to the course and its main components (anthropology, culture, religion, etc.). Also, the methodology and evaluation criteria will be explained.
2	Judaism: · Sharing of highlights, texts and images on Judaism, common discussion. · Judaism in everyday life, guest speaker presentation. - Business and Judaism, within the common discussion and the guest speaker´s presentation.
3	Christianity: · Sharing of highlights, texts and images on Christianity, common discussion. · Christianity in everyday life, guest speaker presentation and/or guided tour. - Business and Christianity, within the common discussion and the guest speaker´s presentation.
4	Islam: · Sharing of highlights, texts and images on Islam, common discussion. · Islam in everyday life, guest speaker presentation. - Business and Islam, within the common discussion and the guest speaker´s presentation.
5	Hinduism: · Sharing of highlights, texts and images on Hinduism, common discussion. · Hinduism in everyday life, guest speaker presentation. - Business and Hinduism, within the common discussion and the guest speaker´s presentation.
6	Buddhism: · Sharing of highlights, texts and images on Buddhism, common discussion. · Buddhism in everyday life, guest speaker presentation. - Business and Buddhism, within the common discussion and the guest speaker´s presentation.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Attendance and Participation	Ordinary round	40.00%
Final individual project	Report on the analysis of a piece related to a religious tradition or to a contribution on religion(s) overall.	Retake and ordinary round	0.45%
Final individual project	Evaluation of the main learnings of the course.	Retake and ordinary round	0.15%
Learning report analysis	written re-cap on all sessions	Retake	0.40%

PROGRAMS

B13S-Exchange Program Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
- B13S Year 1 (Optative)

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
- BBA20 Year 4 (Optative)
- BBA20 Year 2 (Optative)
- BBA20 Year 3 (Optative)
- BBA20 Year 1 (Optative)

BBA23-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
- BBA23 Year 3 (Optative)
- BBA23 Year 1 (Optative)
- BBA23 Year 4 (Optative)
- BBA23 Year 2 (Optative)

BBA25-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
- BBA25 Year 3 (Optative)
- BBA25 Year 2 (Optative)

DBAI21-Double Degree in Business Administration and Artificial Intelligence for Business (Undergraduates: Business)
- DBAI21 Year 3 (Optative)
- DBAI21 Year 4 (Optative)

GBD20-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
- GBD20 Year 5 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 4 (Optative)