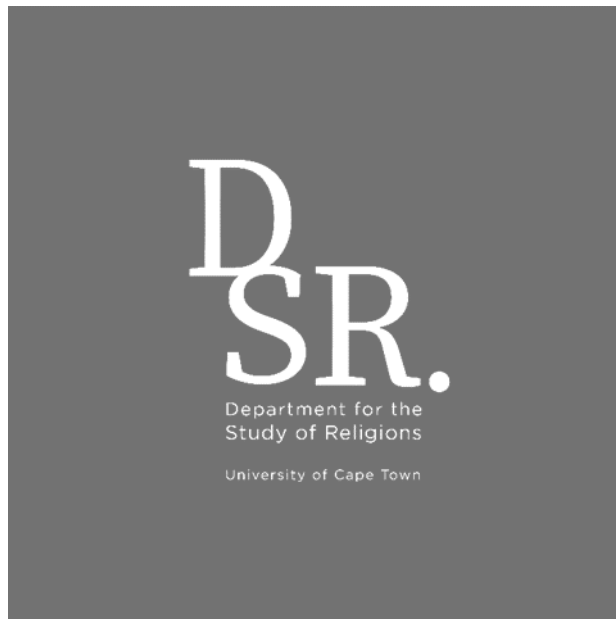


DEPARTMENT FOR STUDY OF RELIGIONS



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

UCT

THINKING ABOUT A MAJOR IN THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS?

You can get a degree in the Study of Religions through a BA (Bachelor of Arts) or a BSocSc (Bachelor of Social Science). Both Bachelor degrees include 20 semester (half year) courses. You need 8 in your first year, and either 6 or 8 in your second year. The last 4 or 6 semester courses are done in your third year.

FIRST YEAR: take one of the following:
Religions Past and Present (REL1002F)
Judaism, Christianity and Islam (REL1006S)
African Religious Traditions (REL1017S)

SECOND YEAR: take two of the following:
Religion and Society (REL2040F)
Religion, Sexuality and Gender (REL2047F)
Psychology of Religion (REL2048S)

THIRD YEAR:
Religion and Politics: (REL3037F)
Religion and Media: (REL3042S)

WHY STUDY RELIGION?

Religion is a powerful force in society, politically and in the lives of the majority of people in the world.

Find out more about the tradition you grew up in and other religions, and about the role of religion in today's society, its interplay with politics, the media, gender, and much more.

Discover the ways in which religions grapple with questions of personhood, meaning-making and the nature of reality while creating diverse forms of community

Be at the forefront of solving problems and developing a better South Africa and the world.

WHICH TRADITIONS ARE TAUGHT?

Islam
Christianity
Judaism
African Traditional Religion
Asian Religions
Buddhism
Hinduism
Comparative religion and the history of religious thought
New religious movements

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR in the STUDY OF RELIGIONS?

You can contribute to public life as an informed and engaged person.

You can bring your critical thinking skills to a wide range of careers.

A religion major contributes to careers in social work, psychology, facilitation, NGO work and journalism, as well as religious vocations.

WHAT DO PEOPLE DO WHEN THEY FINISH THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS?

Many people are interested in continuing their studies further. The department offers internationally acclaimed Honours, Masters and PhD programmes in religion.

Others go on to have successful careers in a wide range of fields. For example
Debora Patta - **journalist**
Phillip Dexter - **political spokesperson**
Karl Jechoutek - **economic analyst**
Raphaella Delle Donna - **filmmaker**
Barney Pityana - **academic**
Ruben Richards - ex head of **Scorpions**

Staff research areas and possibilities available for postgraduate research:

Dr Louis Blond Jewish Thought

Louis Blond focuses on meaning in contemporary philosophy and philosophy's relationship with politics, critical theory and religious discourse, particularly Jewish Thought. Previously he has explored responses to nihilism and homelessness in the work of thinkers such as Franz Rosenzweig, Emmanuel Levinas and Martin Heidegger. His current research includes a re-examination of the philosophical descriptions of otherness, *devekut*, and the relationship between natural law and religion and politics.

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Assoc. Prof. Elisabetta Porcu (Head of Department) Asian Religions, Japanese Religions, Religion and Society

Elisabetta Porcu is the current Head of department who specializes in Japanese Religions in contemporary society. Her research interests include Buddhism; religion, popular culture (*manga* and *anime*), media and consumerism; orientalism; secularization; religious festivals; as well as Japanese religions in South Africa. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in Japan where she has lived and worked for seven years. In her work she combines theoretical concepts with empirical research.

Email: Elisabetta.Porcu@uct.ac.za

Prof. Sa'diyya Shaikh Islamic Studies, Feminist Theory

Sa'diyya Shaikh specializes in the area of Islamic Studies with a focus on gender, feminism and Islamic mysticism. Her research interests include theoretical developments in Islamic feminism, critical scholarship on gender violence and religion, and feminist readings of pre-modern Islamic texts, with a particular interest in the writings of the Sufi thinker Ibn Arabi. She has also published empirically-based research papers on South African Muslim women on issues relating to marriage, sexuality and gender relations.

Email: Sadiyya.Shaikh@uct.ac.za

Dr Ala Alhourani Islam, Religion and Ethics

Dr Ala Alhourani holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of the Western Cape. His research interests include: Islam in Africa; aesthetic of religion and sensory culture; the public life of religion and ordinary ethics; performances and art, research methodology and visual ethnography.

Email: Ala.Alhourani@uct.ac.za

Prof. Asonzeh Ukah (Head of Department)
Christianity in Africa, African Religions

Asonzeh Ukah areas of interests are in religion and globalisation; transnational religion; media and material culture of Pentecostalism; Pentecostal advertising: faith and films; urbanism and sacred space.

Email: Asonzeh.Ukah@uct.ac.za

The **Department for the Study of Religions** is on the 5th floor of the Leslie Social Sciences Building, Upper Campus

Check us out online:

www.religion.uct.ac.za

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