

**POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN ETHNOLOGY AT THE VILNIUS
UNIVERSITY, THE INSTITUTE OF LITHUANIAN LITERATURE AND
FOLKLORE, AND THE LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND
THEATER: THE COURSE ITINERARY**

Subject	Research area (branch), code	Institution	Department
METHODOLOGIES OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES	Ethnology H006	VU	Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies
Form of study	Duration	Form of study	Duration
lecture:	10	consultation:	10
independent study:	170	seminar:	10
Credit hours:	8		
Course description			
<p>Course objective is to introduce PhD students to the genesis and development of the discipline of the study of religions from antiquity to the present day, revealing how a move away from a confessional theological perspective has taken place, and how the academic study of religion has been shaped by the increasing awareness of non- European religious traditions. The problem of defining the term "religion" itself and the diversity of interpretations will be revealed. Doctoral students will become familiar with the main trends, fields and schools of religious studies: linguistic, sociological, psychological, anthropological, cultural studies, phenomenological, post-colonial and others. Lectures and seminars will analyze the content and fundamental problems of the study of religions, methodological principles of religious studies, paradigms of religious behavior and experience, types of religious authority, and the concept of religious community.</p>			
<p>Course aims and competences: doctoral students will have an understanding of the complex nature of post-colonial studies and its relationship with other disciplines and interdisciplinary fields. They will learn about the patterns and stages in the development of religions, the relationship between religious studies and theology, comparative and historical principles of religious studies, issues of religious language, the functions and social role of religion, and the interaction of religion with culture. Doctoral students will be able to analyze and critically evaluate the influence of local and non-European religions on the formation of the discipline of religious studies, and will be able to identify the prevailing European stereotypes of religious otherness that have legitimized the colonial relationship with other religious traditions. The knowledge of the different approaches and methods developed by the various schools of religious studies will help PhD students to select and apply them in their research and work. They will develop interdisciplinary, problem-oriented analytical skills and enhance cognitive and communicative skills for a more adequate understanding of religious diversity and otherness.</p>			
<p>Course content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Antiquity on religions; 2. Early Christianity on religions; 3. The concept of religion in the Middle Ages; 4. The Renaissance and the Reformation on religions; 5. An Enlightenment perspective; 6. Č. Darwin's evolutionism and H. Spencer; 			

7. Muller and linguistic religious studies;
8. Early anthropology - J. Lubock, E. B. Taylor;
9. A. Lang and the irrationalism of religion;
10. R. R. Marett and Manism;
11. J. F. M'Lennan and R. Smith;
12. E. Durkheim's sociological method of religious studies;
13. J. G. Fraser on magic;
14. A. van Gennep on ritual transformations and initiations;
15. The formation of the psychology of religion (J. H. Leuba, E. D. Starbuck);
16. W. James and his conception of religious experience;
17. J. B. Pratt's methodological views;
18. The conflict between religious studies and theology: the Gottingen School;
19. The missionary approach of J.N. Farquhar;
20. The methodology of N. Soderblom;
21. R. Otto's conception of the phenomenon of the sacred, the numinous experience;
22. B. Malinowski's social anthropology and A.R. Radcliffe-Brown's functionalism;
23. M. Weber's sociology of religion;
24. The cultural-historical method of ethnology and its representatives;
25. P. W. Schmidt and the idea of primitive monotheism;
26. Z. Freud's conception of religion;
27. C. G. Jung and archetypal psychology;
28. The phenomenon of mysticism and its explorations;
29. G. van der Leew and the principles of the phenomenology of religion;
30. The development of descriptive phenomenology in Scandinavia: E. Lehmann, W. B. Kristensen;
31. F. Heiler's phenomenological classification of religions;
32. M. Eliade and R. Pettazzonis: a phenomenological history of religions;
33. The "geography" of the sacred and the hierophany (M. Eliade);
34. Religious experience in the perspective of contemporary transpersonal psychology;
35. Cognitive psychological approach to the study of religion;
36. Anthropological empiric study of religions;
37. A post-colonial approach to the study of religion;
38. Religion in a postmodern context.

Reading list

Key literature:

1. Eric J. Sharpe. *Comparative Religion. A History*, Illinois: Open Court, 1986.
2. *Exploring Religious Meaning*, ed. Robert C. Monk, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1994.
3. Walter H. Capps. *Religious Studies: The Making of a Discipline*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.
4. John R. Hinnells (ed.). *The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2005.
5. Fitzgerald, Timothy. *The Ideology of Religious Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2000.
6. McCutcheon, Russell T. *Critics Not Caretakers: Redescribing the Public Study of Religion*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001.
7. David M. Wulff. *Psychology of Religions: Classic and Contemporary*, NL: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1997.

Additional readings:

1. Mircea Eliade, Jones Lindsay (eds.). *Encyclopedia of Religion*, 15 Volumes, Macmillan Reference USA; 2nd edition, 2004.
2. Robert A. Segal (ed.). *The Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion*. Blackwell Pub. 2006.
3. *Imagining Otherness: Postcolonial Perspective to Indian Religious Culture*, Vilnius: Kronta, 2007
4. George D. Chryssides. *The Insider/Outsider Debate: New Perspectives in the Study of Religion* Equinox Publishing, 2019.
5. Olson, Carl. *The Allure of Decadent Thinking: Religious Studies and the Challenge of Postmodernism*, Oxford University Press, 2013.
6. A. Beinorius, *Imagining Otherness: Postcolonial Perspective to Indian Religious Culture*, Vilnius: Kronta, 2007.
7. Jonathan Z. Smith. *Imagining Religion: From Babylon to Jonestown*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985.
8. Richard E. King, *Orientalism and Religion: Postcolonial Theory, India and 'the Mystic East'*. Routledge, 1999.
9. C.G. Jung. *Psychology and Religion: West and East*, Princeton University Press, 1969.
10. M. Eliade. *Šventybė ir pasaulietiškasumas*, Vilnius: Mintis, ALK, 1997.
11. M. Weber. *Religijos sociologija*, Vilnius: Pradai, 2000

Advisers: academic degree, name and surname	Major research published in the last 5 years in the field (branch)
Audrius Beinorius, prof.dr. (HP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beinorius, Audrius. "Sanskrit and Lithuania: On Linguistic, Religious and Cultural Proximity", in <i>Sanskrit and European Languages</i>. Ed. Prof. Shashi Bala, New Delhi: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 2020, p. 28-58. ISBN 978-81-938679-8-3. 2. Beinorius, Audrius. "Psychoanalytic theory in postcolonial discourse: comparing Octave Mannoni, Frantz Fanon and Homi K. Bhaba.", <i>Dialogue and Universalism</i>, Warsaw, Polish Academy of Sciences, No.3/2020, p.123-140. ISSN 1234-5792 3. Beinorius, Audrius; Berniūnas, Renatas; Dranseika, Vilius; Silius, Vytytis; Rimkevičius, Paulius. "The weirdness of belief in free will", <i>Consciousness and cognition</i>. San Diego, CA : Academic Press. ISSN 1053-8100. eISSN 1090-2376. 2020, vol. 87, art. no. 103054, p. [1-15]. DOI: 10.1016/j.concog.2020.103054 4. Beinorius, Audrius. „Constructing Otherness: On the Early Perception of Buddhism in the West“, in <i>The Spread of Buddhist Thought</i>. Edited by Upendra Rao, New Delhi: Eastern Book Linkers. 2022. p.1-18; 251-253 ISBN 978-8178544236. 5. Beinorius, Audrius. "Teosofinis orientalizmas ir Indija: transkultūrinės Vakarų ezoterizmo transformacijos (Theosophical Orientalism and India: Transcultural Transformations of Western Esotericism)", in <i>Ezoterizmo fenomenas: tarp Rytų ir Vakarų (The Phenomenon of Esotericism: between East and West)</i>, Vilnius: VU leidykla, 2023, p.189-226. ISBN: ISBN 978-609-07-0903-0 6. Beinorius, Audrius. "Ezoterizmas – globalus ar lokalus (Introduction: Esotericism – Local or Global?)", in <i>Ezoterizmo fenomenas: tarp Rytų ir Vakarų, (The Phenomenon of Esotericism: between East and West)</i>, Vilnius: VU leidykla, 2023, pp.7-22. ISBN 978-609-07-0903-0.

	<p>7. Beinorius, Audrius; Berniūnas, Renatas; Dranseika, Vilius; Silius, Vytis; Rimkevičius, Paulius. “Bound to Share or Not to Care. The Force of Fate, Gods, Luck, Chance and Choice across Cultures”, <i>Journal of Cognition and Culture</i> (September 2023), 23: 451–475; DOI: 10.1163/15685373-12340172</p> <p>8. Beinorius, Audrius. “Lunar Constellations (nakshatras) and Name Giving Tradition in Ancient India”, <i>Rocznik Orientalistyczny/Yearbook of Oriental Studies</i>, T. LXXVI, Z. 2, 2023, (s. 5–19) DOI: 10.24425/ro.2023.148339 (https://journals.pan.pl/dlibra/publication/148339/edition/129895/content)</p> <p>9. Beinorius, Audrius; Berniūnas, Renatas; Dranseika, Vilius; Silius, Vytis; Rimkevičius, Paulius. “Being prosocial and happy, and believing in life-determining forces across cultures”. <i>Journal of Cultural Cognitive Science</i>, Published: 06 February 2024. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s41809-023-00139-x</p> <p>10. Beinorius, Audrius. (2024) “Kāla: laiko veidai klasikinėje Indijos filosofijoje”, <i>Problemos</i> 105, p. 21–31. doi:10.15388/Problemos.2024.105.2</p>
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Approved at the meeting of the Ethnology Doctoral Committee of VU, LLTI and LMTA on October 15, 2024, No R6-7.	
Chair of the Doctoral Committee	dr. Daiva Vaitkevičienė