

## **RELIGION**

Whether you're following world news or watching what's happening on campus, you'll be aware of the impact of religion on the contemporary world. Virtually every aspect of human culture has been, and continues to be, shaped by beliefs about gods and demons, saints and shamans. In our own day, religious beliefs and practices show no sign of disappearing. Indeed, they are currently undergoing a revival, one form of which is fundamentalism.

So if you want to understand our world, you need to know something about religion. Studying Religion at Otago will help you to understand the complex world of religion by introducing you to the diversity of religious beliefs and practices. Some papers trace established traditions from their ancient roots through to modern times while others examine the various forms of 'spirituality' that feature so prominently in modern popular culture.

Papers in Religion are designed to be accessible and informative to everyone, irrespective of religious background. This handbook provides the essential details of papers on offer in 2012. For further information about each paper, please consult the Religion website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/religion>

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## **MAJOR SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BA IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

The papers that have to be included in a BA in order to major in Religious Studies are as follows:

- 100-level: RELS 101 and 102
- 200-level: Three 200-level RELS papers. PHIL 229 may be substituted for one paper.
- 300-level: Four 300-level RELS papers. BIBS 317 may be substituted for one paper.  
198 further points; must include 18 points in CHTH or BIBS and 54 points at 200-level or above.

## **MINOR SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BA**

### **Religious Studies**

It is also possible to include in your degree a minor in Religious Studies. The papers that have to be taken to do so are as follows:

- 100-level: RELS 101 and 102
- Above 100-level: At least 54 points of RELS papers, including at least 18 points above 200-level. BIBS 317 may be substituted for one paper.

### **Buddhist Studies and Islamic Studies**

Two further minors are also available, which allow you to gain formal recognition for more detailed study of either Buddhism or Islam and the languages of their texts. In order to include a minor in Buddhist Studies in your degree it is necessary to take RELS 102 and 72 further points (four papers) from the following list:

ANTH 105, ASIA 101, CHIN 131, CHIN 132, HIST 106, JAPA 131,  
JAPA 132, SANS 111, SANS 112, RELS 104, RELS 202, RELS 209,  
RELS 216, RELS 226, RELS 227, RELS 309, RELS 316, RELS 319,  
RELS 326 and RELS 327.

At least 54 points (three papers) must be above 100-level, including at least 18 points (one paper) above 200-level.

In order to include a minor in Islamic Studies in your degree it is necessary to take RELS 101, one of RELS 104, ARAB 131, ARAB 132, ANTH 105 and a further 54 points (three papers, including at least one at 300 level) from the following list:

RELS 207, RELS 220, RELS 221, RELS 225, RELS 234, POLS 210,  
POLS 214, RELS 320, RELS 321, RELS 323, RELS 324, RELS 325,  
RELS 334, HIST 303, and POLS 310.

## 100-LEVEL PAPERS

Distance taught papers are indicated by an X in the paper code, ie, RELX 102.  
All distance courses are taught via the Internet, unless stated otherwise.

### **RELS 101 / RELX 101 Judaism, Christianity and Islam**

(second semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: To be advised.  
An introduction to the three major religions which originated in the Middle East.

### **RELS 102 / RELX 102 Hinduism and Buddhism**

(first semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Will Sweetman  
The ancient origins, classical traditions and contemporary forms of Hinduism and Buddhism, including Hindu mythology, teachings of the Buddha, religious disciplines such as yoga and meditation, expression of devotion in art and architecture, and the spread of Indian religions to the west.

### **SANS 111 / SANX 111 Introductory Sanskrit 1**

(first semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Chaisit Suwanvarangkul  
**Taught via Videoconference**

A reading-based beginners' paper covering the basic elements of Classical Sanskrit grammar and vocabulary, designed to develop reading skills in Classical Sanskrit.

### **SANS 112 / SANX 112 Introductory Sanskrit 2**

(second semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Chaisit Suwanvarangkul  
**Taught via Videoconference**

A continuation of SANS111, including the study of passages from the Bhagavad Gita and other texts.

Prerequisite: SANS111

## 200-LEVEL PAPERS

Distance taught papers are indicated by an X in the paper code, ie, RELX 202.  
All distance courses are taught via the Internet, unless otherwise stated.

### **RELS 202 / RELX 202 Religions of Southeast Asia**

(summer school) 18 points

Course Coordinator: Dr Elizabeth Guthrie

An introduction to the religious traditions of Southeast Asia. While particular emphasis will be laid upon Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam will also be considered, as well as the indigenous traditions of Southeast Asia (including Chinese religion). During the course a survey will be made of the establishment of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam in Southeast Asia, and the interaction between Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam and the indigenous traditions of Southeast Asia.

Prerequisite: 36 points

Restriction: RELX 202, RELS/X 330

### **RELS 211 / RELX 211 The Dead Sea Scrolls**

(second semester) 18 points

Course Coordinator: Dr James Harding

A detailed study of selected non-biblical Dead Sea Scrolls from Qumran, in the context of late Second Temple Judaism. Special attention will be paid to the Enoch literature and to the significance of the Scrolls for our understanding of the movement that crystallized around the figure of Jesus of Nazareth.

Prerequisite: 36 points at 100-level

Restriction: RELS 311; RELX 211, 311

*Note: RELS/X 211 may be substituted for a BIBS paper in a BTheol*

### **RELS 212 Love and Heroism: Religions of South India**

(second semester) 18 points

Course Coordinator: Dr Will Sweetman

Examines the themes of love and heroism in three religious traditions indigenous to South India (Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism) and the enculturation of Christianity and Islam in South India.

Prerequisite: 36 points at 100-level

Restriction: RELS 312

### **RELS 217 Religion, Science, and Magic**

(first semester) 18 points

Course Coordinator: Assoc Prof Greg Dawes

Beginning with the contemporary debates regarding creationism, alternative medicine, and witchcraft (Wicca), the course examines the relation between the modern sciences and the worlds of Kabbalah, alchemy, and apocalyptic religion from which they emerged.

Prerequisite: 36 points at 100-level

Restriction: RELS 317

**RELS 218 / RELX 218 Religion and the Internet**

(second semester) 18 points

Course Coordinator: Dr Erica Baffelli

The paper explores the presence and practice of religions online. After a theoretical introduction dealing with religion and media studies, and Internet communication, the paper will examine how Asian religions choose to use or not to use the Internet. It will also consider the impact of the Internet on religious practice, on believers' communication and on the image construction of various groups.

Prerequisite: 36 points at 100-level

Restriction: RELS 318, RELX 218, 318; or RELS/RELX 230/330 passed in 2008.

**RELS 227 / RELX 227 Buddhist Thought**

(first semester) 18 points

Course Coordinator: Dr Chaisit Suwanvarangkul

This paper provides a comprehensive and critical study of the common heritage shared by all Buddhist traditions by examining the development of Buddhist thought in the Theravada Buddhist textual tradition.

Prerequisite: 36 points at 100-level

Restriction: RELS 327, RELX 227, RELX 327; or RELS/RELX 230/330 passed in 2010.

**RELS 231 Special Topic: Ethics and the Abrahamic Faiths**

(first semester) 18 points

Course Coordinator: Dr Taneli Kukkonen

The paper provides a concise introduction to the varieties of ethical reflection, theory, and argumentation found in the three Abrahamic faiths, or 'the people of the Book': Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Starting from a solid historical foundation of scholarship regarding the way the main traditions of ethical reasoning formed and developed within these three communities, the paper moves to a detailed analysis of a representative sample of present-day points of contention. Through this combined historical and systematic approach a clear picture will emerge of an otherwise easily bewilderingly complex ethical landscape.

Prerequisite: 36 points at 100-level

Restriction: RELS 331

### 300-LEVEL PAPERS

Distance taught papers are indicated by an X in the paper code, ie, RELX 311.  
All distance courses are taught via the Internet, unless otherwise stated.

#### **RELS 311 / RELX 311 The Dead Sea Scrolls (Advanced)**

(second semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr James Harding

A detailed study of selected non-biblical Dead Sea Scrolls from Qumran, in the context of late Second Temple Judaism. Special attention will be paid to the Enoch literature and to the significance of the Scrolls for our understanding of the movement that crystallized around the figure of Jesus of Nazareth.

Prerequisite: 36 points at 200-level (including at least one 200-level BIBS/BIBX or RELS/RELX paper).

Restriction: RELS/RELX 211, RELX 311

#### **RELS 312 Love & Heroism: Religions of South India (Advanced)**

(second semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Will Sweetman

Examines the themes of love and heroism in three religious traditions indigenous to South India (Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism) and the enculturation of Christianity and Islam in South India.

Prerequisite: One 200-level RELS paper or HoD approval

Restriction: RELS 212

#### **RELS 317 Religion, Science, and Magic (Advanced)**

(first semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Assoc Prof Greg Dawes

Beginning with the contemporary debates regarding creationism, alternative medicine, and witchcraft (Wicca), the course examines the relation between the modern sciences and the worlds of Kabbalah, alchemy, and apocalyptic religion from which they emerged.

Prerequisite One 200-level RELS paper or HoD approval

Restriction: RELS 217

#### **RELS 318 / RELX 318 Religion and the Internet (Advanced)**

(second semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Erica Baffelli

The paper explores the presence and practice of religions online. After a theoretical introduction dealing with religion and media studies, and Internet communication, the paper will examine how Asian religions choose to use or not to use the Internet. It will also consider the impact of the Internet on religious practice, on believers' communication and on the image construction of various groups.

Prerequisite: One 200-level RELS paper or HoD approval

Restriction: RELS 218, RELX 218, 318; or RELS/RELX 230, 330 passed in 2008.

#### **RELS 319 / RELX 319 Charisma and Healing in Alternative Religions**

(second semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Erica Baffelli

A study of a variety of New Religious Movements, focusing on the definition of 'charisma', on concepts of 'healing' 'health' 'illness', on healing practices and healers.

Prerequisite: One 200-level RELS paper or HoD approval

Restriction: RELS/X 419; or RELS 332/430 passed in 2008.

**RELS 323 / RELX 323 Islamic Theology and Philosophy**

(first semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Taneli Kukkonen

A study of the major thinkers, topics and texts of Islamic theology and philosophy. A survey of *kalam* (systematic theology) and studies of key figures including Farabi, Ibn Sina, Ghazali and Ibn Rushd.

Prerequisite: One 200-level RELS paper or HoD approval

**RELS 327 / RELX 327 Buddhist Thought (Advanced)**

(first semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Chaisit Suwanvarangkul

This paper provides a comprehensive and critical study of the common heritage shared by all Buddhist traditions by examining the development of Buddhist thought in the Theravada Buddhist textual tradition.

Prerequisite: One 200-level RELS paper or HoD approval

Restriction: RELS 227; RELX 227, 327

Note: May not be credited together with RELS 230, 330 or RELX 230, 330 passed in 2010.

**RELS 330 / RELX 330 Religions of Southeast Asia (Advanced)**

(summer school) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Elizabeth Guthrie

An introduction to the religious traditions of Southeast Asia. While particular emphasis will be laid upon Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam will also be considered, as well as the indigenous traditions of Southeast Asia (including Chinese religion). During the course a survey will be made of the establishment of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam in Southeast Asia, and the interaction between Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam and the indigenous traditions of Southeast Asia.

Prerequisite: 36 points

Restriction: RELS 202; RELX 202; RELX 330

**RELS 331 Special Topic: Ethics and the Abrahamic Faiths**

(first semester) 18 points Course Coordinator: Dr Taneli Kukkonen

The paper provides a concise introduction to the varieties of ethical reflection, theory, and argumentation found in the three Abrahamic faiths, or ‘the people of the Book’: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Starting from a solid historical foundation of scholarship regarding the way the main traditions of ethical reasoning formed and developed within these three communities, the paper moves to a detailed analysis of a representative sample of present-day points of contention. Through this combined historical and systematic approach a clear picture will emerge of an otherwise easily bewilderingly complex ethical landscape.

Prerequisite: One 200-level RELS paper or HoD approval

Restriction: RELS 231

300-level continues

**RELX 332 Special Topic: Thinking Sociologically about Religion**

(first semester) 18 points

Course Coordinator: Professor Grace Davie

*(Intensive - Dunedin, 13 –17 February)*

This paper will provide a sociological study of the phenomenon of religion in contemporary society. It will begin with a study of the theoretical foundations of the sociology of religion and assess a range of methodological challenges, before proceeding to a consideration of the place and role of religion in secular societies, fundamentalisms in the modern world, globalisation and religion, and minorities on the margins.

Prerequisite: One 200-level RELS paper or HoD approval

Restriction: RELX 430

## 400-LEVEL PAPERS

Distance taught papers are indicated by an X in the paper code, ie, RELX 419.

### **RELS 415 Method and Theory in Religion**

(first semester) 24 points Course Coordinator: Dr Will Sweetman

Theories of religion in relation to society and to the human mind; approaches to religion through cross-cultural study of some of its major elements such as myth, ritual, and symbol.

Prerequisite: One 300-level RELS or RELX paper

Restriction: RELS 430 passed in 2010 and 2011

### **RELS 419 / RELX 419 Charisma and Healing in Alternative Religions**

(second semester) 24 points Course Coordinator: Dr Erica Baffelli

A study of a variety of New Religious Movements, focusing on the definition of 'charisma', on concepts of 'healing' 'health' 'illness', on healing practices and healers.

Prerequisite: One 300 level RELS or RELX paper

Restriction: RELS/X 319; or RELS 332/430 passed in 2008

### **RELS 423 / RELX 423 Islamic Theology and Philosophy**

(first semester) 24 points Course Coordinator: Dr Taneli Kukkonen

The major thinkers, topics and texts of Islamic theology and philosophy. A survey of *kalam* (systematic theology) and studies of key figures including Farabi, Ibn Sina, Ghazali and Ibn Rushd.

Prerequisite: One 300-level RELS or RELX paper

Restriction: RELS, RELX 323

### **RELX 430 Special Topic: Thinking Sociologically about Religion**

(first semester) 24 points Course Coordinator: Professor Grace Davie

*(Intensive - Dunedin, 13 –17 February)*

This paper will provide a sociological study of the phenomenon of religion in contemporary society. It will begin with a study of the theoretical foundations of the sociology of religion and assess a range of methodological challenges, before proceeding to a consideration of the place and role of religion in secular societies, fundamentalisms in the modern world, globalisation and religion, and minorities on the margins.

Prerequisite: One 300-level RELS or RELX paper

Restriction: RELX 332

400-level continues

**RELS 490 / RELX 490 Dissertation**

(full year) 48 points

A research essay on a particular topic in Religion, chosen in consultation with the Department.

Prerequisites: Three 300-level RELS/RELX papers.

Limited to BA(Hons), PGDipArts.

**Note:** The Fourth-Year Honours Programme in Religion requires a student to take RELS 490, and three further 400-level RELS papers. An approved paper may be substituted for 24 400-level RELS points.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

The Otago Distance Learning programme has been designed to offer papers in Religion to a wide range of New Zealanders. The Department realises that some people cannot take extended time out from their careers and families to move to Dunedin to enjoy the benefits of study on campus. By offering these courses on the Distance Learning network we have been able to remove a significant barrier to studying Religion. Students in Dunedin who are unable to attend lectures during the day may also enrol in the distance learning papers. In addition, students may choose a mix of on-campus and off-campus study.

### PAPERS ON OFFER IN 2012

(For a detailed description of each paper see pages 3-10.)

*Note:* the paper codes for Distance Learning students substitute an X for the final S. Hence RELS 102 when taught on the Distance Learning network becomes RELX 102.

|                    |              |                                                                                 |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Semester 1:</b> | RELX 102     | Hinduism and Buddhism                                                           |
|                    | RELX 227/327 | Buddhist Thought                                                                |
|                    | RELX 323/423 | Islamic Theology and Philosophy                                                 |
|                    | RELX 332/430 | Thinking Sociologically about Religion<br>(Intensive – Dunedin, 13-17 February) |
|                    | SANX 111     | Introductory Sanskrit 1                                                         |
| <b>Semester 2:</b> | RELX 101     | Judaism, Christianity and Islam                                                 |
|                    | RELX 211/311 | The Dead Sea Scrolls                                                            |
|                    | RELX 218/318 | Religion and the Internet                                                       |
|                    | RELX 319/419 | Charisma & Healing in Alternative Religions                                     |
|                    | SANX 112     | Introductory Sanskrit 2                                                         |
| <b>Full Year:</b>  | RELX 490     | Dissertation                                                                    |

A range of other papers in Biblical Studies, Christian Thought and History, and Pastoral Theology are also available via the Distance Learning Network. Contact the Department for further details.

### INTERNET-BASED COURSES

All internet-based papers are taught using Blackboard, which is the Course Management System used by the University of Otago. Students are supplied with a printed coursebook containing lecture notes and required readings, but other material (for example, slides shown in lectures and links to further reading available in online articles and books, and other useful resources) are accessed through Blackboard. Tutorial discussions are carried out online, enabling students to engage with each other's views. Students also submit assignments through Blackboard, but generally receive feedback by post. Regular access to the internet, and a reasonable degree of familiarity with using the internet are required for these papers, but support is available by phone or email from the ITS Helpdesk which is open Monday - Friday 8:30am-9:00pm and Saturday - Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm.

## **VIDEOCONFERENCES**

Via the internet students are able to participate in classes, or to download videos of classes to watch at a later time.

Students will need to be able to get to a videoconference facility in order to participate in tutorials. For details of when and where the tutorials will be held, please contact the department before registering for the paper.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

For each paper a package of materials is sent to students before the commencement of the semester, containing a coursebook with reference material for the paper. It also includes information about library resources, assignment preparation, audioconference access details and general administrative matters.

It is essential for the University to have **accurate** student address details for the mailing of materials.

The purchase of additional textbooks may be required for some papers.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Each paper is assessed by assignments and generally an examination. Details will be found in the coursebooks.

Examination information is available on: [www.otago.ac.nz/study/exams/](http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/exams/)  
Results can be viewed on PIMS when released.

Further information: [www.otago.ac.nz/courses/distance\\_study/](http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/distance_study/)

## ENROLMENT PROCEDURES AND FEES

### Enrolment Procedures

Intending students wishing to begin a course of study at the University in 2012 should check the following link on the University's website for information:  
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment/>

### Closing Date for Enrolment

#### *First Semester (and Full-Year) Enrolments*

- a) New students:  
Application for enrolment closes on 10 December 2011 for all new students, except those commencing study in the second semester.
- b) Returning students:  
Enrolments close on 15 January 2012 for all returning students taking first semester or full year papers.

#### *Second Semester (Mid-Year) Enrolments*

- a) New students  
Applications from new students for admission and enrolment will be considered up until 15 June 2012 for second semester papers.
- b) Returning students  
While returning students should ideally enrol for their full year's course by the standard closing date, applications for enrolment for second semester papers will be considered up until 15 June 2012.

### Fees

Fees for 2012 will not be set until after this booklet goes to print. Please consult the University website <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/fees/> for details of fees for 2012.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information about fees, enrolment procedures, adding or withdrawing from papers, contact:

University Information Centre  
West Lane, Information Services Building  
Dunedin Campus  
Phone: (03) 479-7000

University Information Line  
Freephone: 0800 80 80 98  
Email: [university@otago.ac.nz](mailto:university@otago.ac.nz)

For further information about course planning and content, contact:

The Secretary  
Department of Theology and Religion  
University of Otago  
P.O. Box 56  
Dunedin 9054

tel: (03) 479-8516 or 479-8901 (distance students)  
fax: (03) 479-5158  
email: [religion@otago.ac.nz](mailto:religion@otago.ac.nz)

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS BA**

### **1. Structure of the Course**

Every degree

- (a) shall consist of papers worth not less than 360 points,
- (b) shall include at least 180 points for papers above 100-level, of which at least 72 points shall be for papers above 200-level,
- (c) shall satisfy at least one of the Major Subject Requirements listed in Arts and Music Schedule A,
- (d) may include an optional minor subject which satisfies a Minor Subject Requirement, as listed in Arts and Music Schedule A, Theology Schedule A, or Consumer and Applied Sciences Schedule A. No papers may count for both a Major and a Minor Subject Requirement unless that paper is at 100-level or 200-level and is specified as compulsory for both Requirements.
- (e) may include papers which are not listed in Arts and Music Schedule C either:
  - (i) up to 90 points; or
  - (ii) as specified in Arts and Music Schedule A.

### **2. Prerequisites, Corequisites and Restrictions**

- (a) Every course of study for the degree must satisfy the requirements for prerequisites, corequisites and restrictions. Refer to Calendar Prescriptions.
- (b) A candidate with outstanding results in a subject prior to entering the University may be permitted by the Head of Department concerned to enrol for a paper at 200-level without having satisfied the normal prerequisite requirement set out in the Prescriptions. In such cases the candidate shall not be credited with the prerequisite papers, but shall be exempted from including those papers in a Major Subject Requirement specified in Schedule A. A candidate may not, having passed any such paper at 200-level, enrol subsequently for any paper for which the exemption has been given.

### **3. Cross-Credits**

A candidate who is enrolled for the degree concurrently with another degree, or who has completed one degree and is proceeding with the other, may cross-credit 100- and 200-level papers which are common to both degrees up to a maximum of 126 points where the other degree is a three-year degree and up to a maximum of 180 points where the other degree is longer than a three-year degree.

#### 4. **Variations**

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Humanities) may in exceptional circumstances approve a course of study which does not comply with these regulations.

### **BA (HONS) REQUIREMENTS**

The University is currently changing its Honours programme regulations. From 2013 the BA(Hons) will be a one year qualification, that may be taken by students who have graduated with appropriate grades in the BA programme. Students currently enrolled in the Honours programme and who are likely to continue their programmes beyond 2012 should consult the Department for further course advice.

#### **Transitional arrangements**

1. There will be no further admissions to 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> stage Honours. In 2012 only admissions to fourth year under the current regulations will be processed.
2. **Students already admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> stage Honours in 2011** - These students will be offered the choice of whether to complete under the existing four year Honours regulations or to graduate with their ordinary degree at the end of 2012 and apply for admission to the one year Honours degree in 2013.
3. **Students already admitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> stage Honours** - These students will complete the four year Honours degree in 2012 under the current 4<sup>th</sup> stage Honours requirements.

Admission to the 4<sup>th</sup> stage Honours programme in 2012 will be subject to the approval of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Humanities).

To be admitted directly to a fourth-year Honours course without having passed the corresponding second- and third-year Honours courses, a student must normally have passed papers worth 360 points, have fulfilled at least one of the major subject requirements for the degree of BA, and have a grade average of at least B+ over 72 points at 300-level, normally in the subject or subjects in which the Honours programme is to be taken.

A student who holds the degree of BA shall not be admitted to an Honours programme, nor may a student graduate with the degree of BA while enrolled in a fourth-year Honours course.

**Note:** An application for admission to the programme is required; this is separate from the enrolment process. Applications should normally reach the Division of Humanities by 10 December.

An Honours degree may be awarded in any of the following subjects (for Single Honours), or in any approved combination of these subjects (for Combined or Double Honours). With the approval of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Humanities) the degree may be awarded in a combination of one of these subjects with a subject in which an Honours degree can be taken in another discipline.

|                          |              |                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Religious Studies</b> | Second Stage | Four 200-level RELS papers.<br>54 further points. PHIL 229 may be substituted for one 200-level RELS paper.                  |
|                          | Third Stage  | Five 300-level RELS papers.<br>36 further points. BIBS 317 or PHIL 329 may be substituted for 18 300-level RELS points.      |
|                          | Fourth Stage | RELS 490, RELS 415 and two further 400-level RELS papers. An approved paper may be substituted for 24 400-level RELS points. |

**Note:** At least 18 points in BIBS or CHTH must be included.

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DIPLOMA FOR GRADUATES (DipGrad)**

### **1. Nature of the Diploma**

The Diploma for Graduates is an academically integrated course of study, designed for graduates and others with equivalent qualifications or experience, who require additional training or training in another discipline, without the necessity to undertake another full degree course; or who wish to extend their knowledge of an area of study or bring it up to date; or who wish to satisfy the requirements for a second major subject additional to the one included in the first degree.

### **2. Admission to the Programme**

- (a) Admission to the course shall be subject to the approval of the Senate.
- (b) Every candidate for the diploma shall:

- (i) have been admitted to a degree or a diploma of a University of New Zealand; or
- (ii) have submitted evidence satisfactory to the Senate of previous training and experience appropriate to the planned course of study.

### **3. Subjects of Study**

The diploma may be taken in any subject or combination of subjects which constitute a coherent and integrated academic programme, taking into account the prior qualifications and experience of the candidate concerned. The papers to be included shall be decided in consultation with the Programme Director and the Heads of the Departments concerned.

Continued

#### 4. **Structure of the Programme**

- (a) Every programme of study for the diploma shall
- (i) consist of papers worth at least 120 points;
  - (ii) include at least 72 points for papers at or above 300-level;
  - (iii) include such other work as may be prescribed in particular cases.
- (b) The Diploma may be endorsed in any of the subjects defined in the Schedule of Endorsements if the programme includes the requirements specified in the Schedule.

Note: The Diploma for Graduates may be endorsed in either Religious Studies, or Buddhist Studies. For Religious Studies, the requirements are: RELS 101, RELS 102 and at least 54 points (three papers) at 300-level or above.

For the Diploma for Graduates endorsed in Buddhist Studies, the requirements are at least 54 points (three papers) from CHIN 131, CHIN 132, CHIN 231, CHIN 232, CHIN 334, CHIN 335, JAPA 131, JAPA 132, JAPA 231, JAPA 331, JAPA 332, JAPA 334, RELS 102, SANS 101, or SANS 102; and at least 54 points (three papers) from RELS 309, RELS 310, RELS 316, RELS 319, RELS 326, RELS 327.

#### 5. **Duration of the Programme**

The course may be completed by full-time candidates in one year, or by part-time candidates over more than one year. Any paper in which a candidate is enrolled in any year shall be examined in that year.

#### 6. **Variations**

The Senate may in exceptional circumstances approve a course of study which does not comply with these regulations.

**Note:** All enquiries and initial applications for admission to the programme should be sent to the Programme Director, University of Otago.

## **POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN RELIGION**

### **The First Year of Postgraduate Study**

The first year of postgraduate study in Religion consists of three taught papers, each 24 points, and a dissertation of around 15,000 words (which has the code of 490, 48 points). This year of study can be the fourth and final year of a BA(Hons), a stand-alone year called a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (PGDipArts) or the first year of a two-year Master of Arts degree. With the two-year MA, the second year of the degree is a thesis, which is discussed below.

### **Master of Arts in Religion by thesis alone**

If a student has an Honours degree in Religious Studies or has done a PGDipArts, they may proceed to an MA by thesis alone. The thesis is 40,000 words, written over a minimum of one year and a maximum of four years part-time. Supervision is provided for by the Department. Students do not have to be in Dunedin to do these degrees, but where they are outside of Dunedin satisfactory supervision arrangements must be made.

### **PhD**

The Department offers the PhD degree in Religious Studies. This is by thesis only, with the thesis being 100,000 words. Again students need not be in Dunedin, but satisfactory supervision arrangements must be made.

## ACADEMIC STAFF IN RELIGION

**Erica Baffelli**, BA (Hons) PhD (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) is Lecturer in Asian Religions. Before coming to Otago she was a visiting researcher at Hosei University (Tokyo) and post-doctoral research fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). Her research interests lie in new religious movements in Asia, especially the relation between Japanese "new religions" and media communication. At Otago she teaches papers on topics related to Japanese religions, religion and the Internet, religion and popular cultures and new religious movements.

**Gregory W. Dawes**, SSL (Rome: Pont. Bib. Inst.), BTheol, PhD (Otago), gained his first graduate degree at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome (1988) before returning to New Zealand, where he completed PhD degrees in both Biblical Studies (1995) and Philosophy (2007). He holds the position of Associate Professor in both Religion and Philosophy. This year Greg is teaching RELS 217/317 (Religion, Science, and Magic) and PHIL 229/329 (Philosophy of Religion). His most recent book is entitled *Theism and Explanation*, published by Routledge (New York).

**Taneli Kukkonen**, MTh, MA, DDiv (Helsinki)

Taneli is Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies and will start at Otago in January 2012. Taneli looks forward to teaching papers on various aspects of Islamic thought and on comparative topics in the three Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). His primary research interests are in the history of Islamic theology, philosophy, and mysticism; Taneli also studies late ancient thought, medieval Latin Scholasticism, and contemporary philosophy of religion. Taneli has previously taught at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, and in Jyväskylä, Finland. He has published widely on topics in Islamic philosophy and is at present hard at work on his first book, on al-Ghazali, for Oxford University Press's Great Medieval Thinkers series.

**Chaisit Suwanvarangkul**, B.Sci in Pharm (Chulalongkorn), MA (Kyoto), PhD (Delhi) is a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religion. He teaches papers on Buddhism and Sanskrit. Dr Suwanvarangkul was born in Thailand, and spent more than ten years as an ordained Theravada Buddhist monk, studying the Dhamma and Vinaya. He did his MA research on the *Madhyāntavibhāga* at Kyoto University in Japan and his PhD research at the University of Delhi in India on the Yogācāra school of Mahāyāna Buddhism. He has taught meditation and Theravāda Buddhism in Japan, and has taught both Theravāda and Mahāyāna Buddhism at Wat Phra Dhammakaya in Pathum Thani near Bangkok, and at the Mahachulalongkorn-Rajavidyalaya University (Thailand's largest Buddhist University), Bangkok. He studied Sanskrit and Tibetan in Japan and India. His field of research is Buddhist studies, focusing on the original teaching of the Buddha.

**Will Sweetman**, BA (Hons) (Lancaster), MPhil, PhD (Cambridge), is Senior Lecturer in Asian Religions and Programme Co-ordinator for Religion. Will has taught at universities in London and Newcastle, and held research fellowships at the University of Halle (Germany) and the University of Cambridge. His research interests lie especially in the interactions between Asian religions and the West in the modern period. He has published two books and several articles on historical and theoretical aspects of the study of Hinduism.

## ASSOCIATE LECTURERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

**Professor Grace Davie**, BA (Oxon), PhD (London) Honorary Doctorate, (Uppsala) recently retired from the Department of Sociology and Philosophy at the University of Exeter, UK. Professor Davie has many years of experience as a university teacher and has taught a wide variety of courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. She has been involved in close collaboration with and visits to a number of European Universities and Grandes Ecoles, notably the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. In 2000-01, she held the Kerstin Hesselgren Professorship at Uppsala University, where she returned in 2006-07 and again in 2010.

**Dr Elizabeth Guthrie**, BA (San Francisco State University), MA (Hons) (Otago), PhD (Canterbury). In addition to lecturing and tutoring Buddhism, Southeast Asian Religions and New Religious Movements, and coordinating a Sanskrit Reading Group at the University of Otago, she has taught English as a Second Language in New Zealand and Thailand, worked for NGOs in Cambodia, and done research in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Arakan and Southwestern China. Publications include a book on New Religious Movements in Cambodia, articles on Cambodian Buddhist nuns, the relationship between Buddhism and politics, the biography of the Buddha, and the religious iconography of Mainland Southeast Asia.

## **Disability Information and Support**

The Theology and Religion Department encourages students to seek support if they find they are having difficulty with their studies due to disability, temporary or permanent impairment, an injury, chronic illness or deafness.

Contact: **Disability Information and Support**

Tel (03) 479-8235

Email [disabilities@otago.ac.nz](mailto:disabilities@otago.ac.nz)

Website <http://www.otago.ac.nz/disabilities>

## **Māori Resources at the Central Library**

**Te Aka a Tāwhaki** is the **Māori Resources Collection** located on the ground floor of the Central Library. This collection brings together, in one space, Māori information resources for students to begin their research.

**A Ngā Kaitakawaenga Māori - Māori Resources Librarian** is located in the Central Library. The role of the Māori Resources Librarian is to provide research assistance and enhance access to Māori information resources held at the University of Otago Library. The Māori Resources Librarian is available for consultations by appointment.

For further information contact:

Email: [maori.resources@library.otago.ac.nz](mailto:maori.resources@library.otago.ac.nz)

Phone: (03) 479 8972