

Course number	U-LAS00 10025 LE34				
Course title (and course title in English)	Theories of Religion in the Social Sciences-E2 Theories of Religion in the Social Sciences-E2		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation	Center for Southeast Asian Studies Associate Professor, Julius Bautista	
Group	Humanities and Social Sciences		Field(Classification)	Philosophy(Foundations)	
Language of instruction	English		Old group	Group A	Number of credits 2
Number of weekly time blocks	1	Class style	Lecture (Face-to-face course)		Year/semesters 2025 • First semester
Days and periods	Tue.4		Target year	Mainly 1st & 2nd year students	Eligible students For liberal arts students
[Overview and purpose of the course]					
<p>The course offers a basic foundation for the study of religion by introducing a number of different perspectives from the Sciences and Humanities. Religions are conceived of as part of the history of ideas that shaped the major intellectual traditions such as science, politics, cultural and social studies. The course will cultivate two learning areas: (1) a basic understanding of the approaches and methodologies that have been used in the study of religious phenomena, and (2) a critical discussion of the various religious, moral and ethical issues that influence contemporary ideas and discoveries.</p>					
[Course objectives]					
<p>At the end of this course, students will be able to (1) describe how some of the world ' s major thinkers and intellectuals have engaged with the topic of religion over the past two centuries. From this intellectual platform, students will be equipped to (2) describe how the concept of religion itself has evolved in ways that is relevant to the various social, cultural and environmental conditions in which it can be observed.</p>					
[Course schedule and contents]					
<p>Week 1 Introduction and Course Queries Week 2 Religion as an Academic Field of Study Week 3 Religion and the formation of Social Sciences Week 4 Anthropological Approaches to Religion Week 5 Religion and the Sociological Imagination Week 6 Religion as a Psychological Problem Week 7 Religion and the formation of Critical Politics Week 8 Recap Lecture/Midterm Week 9 Materialist Approaches to Religion Week 10 Interpretive Approaches to Religious Experience Week 11 Religion and the Scientific Method Week 12 Religion and the Secular Week 13 Conclusion and Recap Week 14 Reading Week Week 15 Examination Week 16 Feedback Week</p>					
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Theories of Religion in the Social Sciences-E2(2)

[Course requirements]

None

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Students will be evaluated according to three main criteria. (1) their ability to participate class discussion (20% of the overall grade), (2) a written essay (40%), and (3) group project/presentation (40%). ***The group project/presentation may be replaced by a written exam, depending on class numbers. This will be announced when the final number of enrollment is confirmed.**

[Textbooks]

Kessler, Gary 『Fifty Key Thinkers on Religion』 (Routledge) ISBN:415492610

[References, etc.]

(References, etc.)

Introduced during class

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

No prior knowledge of religion is required. Students should be able to participate in discussions with their classmates in English. This may be face-to-face small group discussion or online. Students may also be asked to make short presentations in English based on the class topics.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

Consultation is by appointment via email to bautista@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp

[Essential courses]