

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN**

**COORDINATOR: PROF. AKPENPUUN DZURGBA
DEPUTY COORDINATOR: DR. J.S. ADEKOYA**

History

The Department of Religious Studies came into being at the inception of the University College, Ibadan in 1948. It began by offering one of the subjects for the B.A. General Degree in special relationship with the University of London, and subsequently also offered courses leading to the Honours Degree of Bachelor of Divinity. The special relationship ended officially in June, 1964, and thereafter we started to produce B.A. (Honours Religious studies) graduates of the University of Ibadan.

Courses are offered in the field of history and phenomenology of religion, theology and philosophy, aiming at an interpretation and understanding of African Traditional Religion, Christianity and Islam, separately and in so far as there has been cross-fertilization between them.

Under a scheme of Social Relationship with the University, the Diploma in Religious Studies Course (a 2-year programme, introduced in October 1964 became available externally from 1969 to approve Theological Colleges in Nigeria. So far, three Nigerian Theological Institutions have taken advantage of this opportunity and have been admitted into the scheme.

The postgraduate programmes in the Department have grown and expanded during the last twenty years. The first Masters Degree was awarded in 1970. Since then more than 1,000 Master and about 100 Doctoral candidates have completed their programmes in the department.

About 25% of our total products, so far, are ordained into the Ministry of the Church in Nigeria; the rest are serving the country in other various capacities.

Major Developments

1. *Departmental Journal*

One particular achievement of the Department is that, it has become an ORITA, "the place where ways meet" for study and research into African Traditional Religion, Islam, and Christianity. This has received concrete manifestation in the ORITA; *Ibadan Journal of Religious Studies*, which has received a global, academic acceptance and commendation.

2. *Annual Religious Studies Conference*

The Department has also served as a cohesive force, for bringing together several disciplines in the University into academic fellowship. Thus, disciplines which appear on the surface to be disparate elements can now mix well in academic intimacy. Evidence of this is afforded by the annual Religious Studies Conference where vital issues are examined and treated from the Christian, Islamic, African Traditional, Philosophical, Humanistic, Sociological and Political points of view. The Department is tackling the vital, fundamental problems of life as well as offering Religion-in-the service-of-man

3. *External Diploma and External Certificate in Religious Studies*

In 1969, the Department began to run the External Diploma and External Certificate in Religious Studies, and so far, three Theological Institutions have been admitted into the scheme.

Under the scheme, the examination is administered jointly by the University and the Theological Institution concerned. The University appoints external examiners, moderates the examination question papers and the marking of the candidates' scripts, and awards the External Diploma or External Certificate.

Distribution of Courses

200 Level

Course Code	Course Title	Units	Status
RCS 211	Critical Introduction to the Old Testament	2	C
RCS213	History and Doctrine of the Early Christian Church	2	C
RES 214	An Intro. to the Sociology of Religion	3	C
RCS221	Critical Introduction to the New Testament	2	C
RES211	General Introduction to the study of Religion	2	C
RES212	Comparative Concepts in Christian & Muslim Scriptures	2	C
	Total	13	

300 Level

RES 223	Introduction to Philosophy of Religion	2	C
RCS 312	The Religion of Israel and Judah	2	C
RCS 313	Exegesis of St. John	2	C
RCS 321	Ancient Prophets in Israel	2	C
RCS 222	Christian Ethics in Contemporary Society	2	C
		10	

400 Level

RCS 324	Studies in the Epistles I	2	C
RES 312	Basic Practices of the Major Faiths in Nigeria	2	C
RCS 411	Theology of the Old Testament	2	C
RCR 324	Religion and Social Change	2	C
		8	

500 Level

RCR 413	Problems of Philosophy of Religion	2	C
RCR 311	Principal Elements in African Traditional Religion	2	C
RCS 412	Literature & Theology of St. Luke's Gospel	3	C
RCS 422	New Testament Theology	2	C
RES 412	Common Themes in Christian and Islamic Theology	3	C
		12	

Course Details

Course No.	Course Title and Description	Units	Status
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RCS 211	Critical Introduction to the Old Testament The Bible as a unique document; the nature of the Old Testament history and the critical problems unsolved in the study of the Old Testament and some of the proposed solutions; the types of literatures contained in the Old Testament.	2	C
RCS 213	History and Doctrine of the Early Church The process involved in the formation of Christian thought, the organisation of the Church and church state relations; the major doctrinal controversies on Christianity up to the 7 th century, their effects on the Church as an institution and their implications for 'Orthodox' mission in Nubia and Ethiopia.	2	C
RCS 221	Critical Introduction to the New Testament The theological questions and the types of literature contained in the New Testament, towards a critical and deeper theological insight into the New Testament.	2	C
RES 211	General Introduction to the Study of Religion Etymology, definition and theories of the origin of religion; approaches to the study, its purposes and difficulties; media presentation; present studies and sources of African Traditional Religion.	2	C
RES 212	Comparative Concepts in Christian and Muslim Scriptures Comparative literacy styles of the Christian and Muslim scriptures; a dialogical hermeneutics of comparable select themes, such as God, angels, holy book, prophets and eschatology.	2	C
RES 214	An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion The relationship between religion and society; sociological methods; measures of religiosity; sociological theories of religion; functions of religion; religious crises; the preservation of religious peace in society.	3	C
	Total Units	13	

RES 223	Introduction to Philosophy of Religion The task of the philosophy of religion, the legacy of Greece in philosophy of religion; the main objections raised against religion,	2	C
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	including empiricism.		
RCS 312	The Religion of Israel and Judah The rise of the monarchy in its historical context paying particular attention to northsouth divisions of the states of Israel. The history down to the exile and reference to the rise of Israelites prophecy with reference to Amos & Isaiah 1-2.	2	C
RCS 313	Exegesis of St.John The origin, literature and theology of St.John Gospel; the exegesis and textual criticism of the Gospel, with prescribed texts in Greek and English.	2	C
RCS 321	Ancient Prophets in Israel The history of the rise of Hebrew prophets including their stages of development, their fuctions during the period of the monarchy from its institution to the exile, laying emphasis on their roles as religious thinkers and political activities.	2	C
RCS 222	Christian Ethics in Contemporary Society Christian ethics against the background of secular theories of morality; issues in relating Christian ethics to contemporary society such as selfhood and community, sex, family, divorce, racism, ethnicity, the rich and the poor and Christian attitudes to war, violence and authority.	2	C
	Total Units	10	

RCS 324	Studies in the Epistles I The theology, exegesis and textual criticism of Romans with prescribed texts in Greek and English.	2	C
RES 312	Basic Practices of the Major Faiths in the Nigerian Context A comparative examination of the content, significance and public manifestation of rites such as prayer, alms-giving, fasting, pilgrimage; structures such as marriage, inheritance and authority in the major faiths in Nigeria.	2	C
RCS 411	Theology of the Old Testament The theology of the Old Testament with particular attention to themes of theological interest, e.g. covenant, salvation, remnant, council of Yahweh, holiness, King Messiah and election.	2	C

RCR 324	Religion and Social Change The contribution of religion to the conditions, factors, prospects and problems of social change; theories of social change; religious implications for social change.	2	C
	Total Units	10	

RCR 413	Problems of Psychology of Religion Psychological approaches to the study of religion; forms of beliefs and behaviour, religious experiences, conversion and experiences, ecstasies, transcendental experience, dogmatism, conversion methods and techniques, use of religious symbols, development of religious thinking.	2	C
RCR 311	Principal Elements in African Traditional Religion Attributes of God, cults of God; meaning and purposes of worship; sacred places and objects, sacred times and cultic functionaries, some ritual practices such as purification, covenant making, prayers and sacrifices, traditional festivals.	2	C
RCS 412	Literature and Theology of St.Luke's Gospel The origin of the Gospel of St.Luke, a critical analysis of the literature and theology of the Gospel, the major characteristics and themes of St.Luke and its significance for African Christianity today, with prescribed texts in Greek and English.	3	C
RCS 422	New Testament Theology Major themes in New Testament theology, with emphasis on the Gospels and the Pauline Epistles.	2	C

RES 412	Common Themes in Christian and Islamic Theology A comparative and historical perspective of the debates concerning faith and good works, free-will and determinism, constitutional versus personal authority, the place of philosophy and local culture and the understanding of God's unity.	3	C
	Total Units	12	

Summary

Level	Status	Units
200	Compulsory (5) Required -	10 - 10
300	Compulsory (5) Required -	10 - 10
400	Compulsory (5) Required	10 10
500	Compulsory (5) Required	12 12
	Total no =	42