Module description

The module offers an engaging and accessible introduction to the study of religion. It will require students to explore Christianity, Hinduism and Islam in depth as internally diverse traditions. However, A227 is not a typical ‘world religions’ module. Rather it asks students to study religious places, practices, texts and experiences, each which constitutes a block of study, in order to consider three central module questions: What is religion? How do we study religion? Why do we study religion? In doing so, students will engage critically with important themes in the study of religion, such as vernacular religion, material religion and the relationship between the ‘religious’ and the ‘secular’. Other distinctive aspects of the module include requirements that students engage with religion in their own environment by sharing images and sounds with others; and also by use of a Learning Journal to enable students to organise and reflect upon their studies.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the generic person specification for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- an honours (undergraduate) degree incorporating a significant study of religions element (e.g. religious studies, sociology, history, anthropology).
- confident grasp of methodological debates central to contemporary religious studies and therefore A227.
- the ability to facilitate critical discussion concerning the study of religions.
- experience and/or willingness to teach online (including synchronous teaching tools) and to undertake additional training as necessary.
- demonstrable competence in the use of online library resources with the ability to encourage students to engage with scholarship and independent study.
- the ability to grade assignments and provide constructive feedback to students.

It would be an advantage to have:

- a 2:1 or above undergraduate degree classification
- a higher degree in the academic study of religion (which may be from a historical, sociological or anthropological perspective.)
- experience of HE teaching from a multidisciplinary religious studies perspective
- a teaching qualification (such as a PGCE, HEA Fellowship, or comparable)

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

| Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module: | 60 |
| Number of assignments submitted by the student: | 5 |
| Method of submission for assignments: | 2 |
| Level of ICT requirements: | 2 |
| Number of students likely to be in a standard group: | 20 |
| Salary band: | 7 |
| Estimated number of hours per teaching week: | 6 |