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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education
Peoples' Friendship University of Russia named after Patrice Lumumba
RUDN University**

educational division (faculty/institute/academy) as higher education programme developer

COURSE SYLLABUS

HISTORY OF RELIGIONS OF RUSSIA

course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

35.04.04 AGRONOMY

field of studies / speciality code and title

The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme of higher education:

GENERAL AGRICULTURE

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The course "History of Religions of Russia" is part of the Master's programme "General Agriculture" in the field of study 35.04.04 "Agronomy". The discipline is implemented by the Department of History of Philosophy. The discipline consists of 3 sections and 16 topics and is aimed at studying key aspects of the development of religious traditions of the Russian Federation in the context of the formation of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values and all-Russian civic identity. The course is implemented based on the fundamental principles of the state national policy of the Russian Federation, the foundations of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values, and consists of three main sections with topics grouped accordingly.

The course aims to:

1. Provide students with knowledge necessary for understanding the historical foundations of the formation and development, as well as the current state of religious traditions in the Russian Federation;
2. Familiarize students with the doctrinal, cultic, cultural, value-based, and legal characteristics of religious traditions relevant to the traditional spiritual and moral values of the Russian Federation;
3. Develop students' understanding of state-religious relations in the Russian Federation;
4. Enhance students' skills in analyzing and accounting for cultural diversity in the process of intercultural interaction.

The goal of mastering the discipline is to obtain knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for understanding the historical foundations of the formation and development, as well as the current state of religious traditions in the Russian Federation, their doctrinal, cultic, cultural, value-based, and legal characteristics relevant to the traditional spiritual and moral values of the Russian Federation, and state-religious relations in the Russian Federation.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course "History of religions of russia" is aimed at the development of the following competences (or parts thereof) in students:

Table 2.1. List of competences that students acquire through the course study

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GC-5	Ability to analyze and take into account cultural diversity in the process of intercultural interaction	GC-5.1 Demonstrates understanding of features of various cultures and nations;
		GC-5.2 Builds social interaction, taking into account common and specific features of various cultures and religions;

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the optional component of Block FTD "Optional Disciplines" of the higher educational programme curriculum.

Within the higher education programme, students also master other disciplines and/or internships that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as results of the course study.

Table 3.1. The list of the higher education programme components/disciplines that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as the course study results

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules*	Subsequent courses/modules*
GC-5	Ability to analyze and take into account cultural diversity in the process of intercultural interaction	Russian as a Foreign Language; Management**; Marketing*;	Soil Fertility Management; Scientific Research Work; Undergraduate Practice / Pre-graduation Practice

* To be filled in according to the competence matrix of the higher education programme.

** Elective disciplines/practices

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total workload of the course "History of Religions of Russia" amounts to **0 credits (72 academic hours)**.

*Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the periods of higher education programme mastering (full-time training)**

Type of academic activities	Total academic hours	Semesters/training modules	
		2	
<i>Contact academic hours</i>	24	24	
including:			
Lectures (LC)	12	12	
Lab work (LW)	0	0	
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)	12	12	
<i>Self-studies</i>	48	48	
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam/passing/failing grade)</i>	0	0	
Course workload	academic hours	72	72
	credits	0	0

* To be filled in regarding the higher education programme correspondence training mode.

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
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Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
Module 1: Basics of Religious Studies	Topic 1.1. What is Religion? Role and significance of religion in history and in the life of society. Religiosity. Historical early forms of religion. Religions and denominations. Religion in the Ancient World.	LC, S
	Topic 1.2. Judaism. Old Testament Judaism. Judaism of the Second Temple period. Formation and codification of the Old Testament canon. Judaism and antiquity. Modern Judaism.	LC, S
	Topic 1.3. Christianity I. Emergence of Christianity. Formation of the New Testament canon. Nicene Creed. Christian doctrine. Ancient Eastern churches. Christianity before the separation of churches.	LC, S
	Topic 1.4. Christianity II. The Great Schism. Features of Eastern and Western Christianity. World Catholicism. Protestantism. Local Orthodox Churches. Ancient Eastern Churches.	LC, S
	Topic 1.5. Islam. Emergence of Islam. The Quran and the Sunna. Pillars of Islam and foundations of faith. Sunnism, Shiism, Kharijism, Sufism. Spread of Islam. Modern Islam.	LC, S
	Topic 1.6. Buddhism. Origins and main ideas. Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana. Main Buddhist texts. Buddhism in Tibet and Central Asia. Modern Buddhism.	LC, S
	Topic 1.7. Religious situation in the modern world. New religious movements. Religious radicalism and extremism. Risks and threats in the religious sphere.	LC, S
Module 2: Chronology of Formation of Russia as Multiconfessional State-Civilization	Topic 2.1. Religions in Russia: from Ancient Times to XVI Century. Baptism of Alania. Baptism of Russia. Acceptance of Islam by the peoples of Volga Bulgaria. Formation of a common cultural space. Russia and the Horde. The struggle against the expansion of the Crusaders. Formation of a unified Russian state. Establishment of autocephaly of the Russian Church.	LC, S
	Topic 2.2. Russia in the XVI-XVII centuries: from the Grand Duchy to the Tsardom. Russia as a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional power. Establishment of patriarchy. Role of the Russian Church in overcoming the Turmoils. Reforms of Patriarch Nikon and the emergence of the Old Believers. Integration of peoples traditionally practicing Islam. Development of Orthodox and Muslim clergy. Missionary work and	LC, S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
	Christianization in the context of Russian geographical discoveries.	
	Topic 2.3. Russia in the late XVII-XVIII centuries: from tsardom to empire. Church reform of Peter the Great. Strengthening of religious tolerance. Recognition of Buddhism. The Russian Empire in the XIX-early XX centuries.	LC, S
	Topic 2.4. Religious life in the early XX century. Russia in the "years of great upheavals". Religion in Soviet society. The All-Russian Local Council of 1917 and the restoration of patriarchy. Decree on the separation of church from state and school. Renewalism. The policy of the Soviet state in relation to religion. The role of religious organizations in the Great Patriotic War. Revival of religious life in the 1980s-1990s.	LC, S
	Topic 2.5. Religious life in modern Russia. State-religious and interreligious relations. Traditional religions of the Russian Federation.	LC, S
Module 3: Religious Traditions in Russia: Russian Traditional Spiritual and Moral Values	Topic 3.1. An Individual and the World. Man and his place in the world. Christian, Islamic, Buddhist and Jewish religious anthropologies. Body and consciousness. Birth and death. The value of man's earthly life and its meanings. Human dignity. Religion and ethics. Posthumous existence. Veneration of ancestors.	LC, S
	Topic 3.2. Defining the Russian traditional and moral values. Morality issues for Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism. Religious traditions in Russia.	LC, S
	Topic 3.3. Religious traditions of Russia and all-Russian civic identity. Service to the Fatherland and responsibility for its fate. Historical memory of joint peaceful creation and joint defense of the Motherland. Historically formed spiritual and moral unity of the peoples of Russia.	LC, S
	Topic 3.4. Russian legislation on religious associations. Missionary activity. Religious property. Objects of cultural heritage. State-religious relations. The Council for Cooperation with Religious Associations under the President of the Russian Federation. Interreligious Council of Russia. Religious expertise. Religious organizations of the Russian Federation and the tasks of preserving and strengthening traditional Russian spiritual and moral values.	LC, S

* - to be filled in only for **full**-time training: LC - lectures; LW - lab work; S - seminars.

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom equipment and technology support requirements

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
Lecture	A lecture hall for lecture-type classes, equipped with a set of specialised furniture; board (screen) and technical means of multimedia presentations.	
Seminar	A classroom for conducting seminars, group and individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and technical means for multimedia presentations.	
Self-studies	A classroom for independent work of students (can be used for seminars and consultations), equipped with a set of specialised furniture and computers with access to the electronic information and educational environment.	

* The premises for students' self-studies are subject to **MANDATORY** mention

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main readings:

1. Religious Studies: textbook for academic bachelor's degree / M. M. Shakhnovich [et al.]; edited by M. M. Shakhnovich. — 3rd ed., revised and expanded. — Moscow: Yurait Publishing House, 2018.
2. Dmitriev V. V., Dymchenko L. D. Religious Studies. Teaching aid for academic bachelor's degree. 2nd ed., supplemented and revised. Moscow: Yurait, 2019.
3. Religious Studies. Textbook for academic bachelor's degree. 2nd ed., revised and expanded / I. N. Yablokov, N. N. Bektimirova, A. V. Bochkovskaya et al. Moscow, 2016.
4. Poletaeva T. A. Orthodox Culture: traditions and history. In 2 parts. Teaching aid for higher education institutions. 3rd ed., revised and expanded. Moscow: Yurait, 2018–2019.
5. Lozinsky S. G. History of the Papacy / S. G. Lozinsky. — Moscow: Yurait Publishing House, 2021.
6. Zhdinova E. V. Judaism. Moscow: Mir Knigi, 2006.
7. Buddhism in sociocultural and political processes of Russia, Inner and East Asia: comparative context / ed. by L. E. Yangutov. Ulan-Ude: Publishing House of BSC SB RAS, 2018.

Additional readings:

1. Alekseeva S. I. The Most Holy Synod in the system of higher state institutions of post-reform Russia. 1856-1904. St. Petersburg, 2003.
2. Alikberov A. K., Bobrovnikov V. O., Bustanov A. K. Russian Islam: Essays on History and Culture. 2nd ed., revised and expanded. Moscow, 2019.

3. Arapov D. Yu. The system of state regulation of Islam in the Russian Empire (last third of the XVIII – beginning of the XX century). Moscow, 2004.
4. Balagushkin E. G. Non-traditional religions in modern Russia. Moscow, 2002.
5. Vasilyeva O. Yu., Trofimchuk N. A. History of Religions in Russia. Textbook. Moscow, 2004.
6. Vikhnovich V. V. Judaism. St. Petersburg, 2006.
7. Islam in the Russian Empire (legislative acts, descriptions, statistics) / Compilation, comments, introductory article by D. Yu. Arapov. Moscow, 2001.
8. Islam in the territory of the former Russian Empire. Encyclopedic dictionary. Moscow, 1998-2004. Issues 1-4.
9. History and Theory of Religion: teaching aid / E. V. Ivanova, O. M. Farkhitdinova, E. V. Melnikova et al. Yekaterinburg, 2019.
10. History of Religions of Russia: textbook / O. Yu. Boytsova, I. S. Vevyurko, I. P. Davydov [et al.]; edited by O. Yu. Boytsova. Moscow: Knorus, 2025.
11. Kartashev A. V. Essays on the History of the Russian Church. Moscow, 1991. Vol. 1-2.
12. Landa R. G. Islam in Russian History. Moscow, 1995.
13. Matvienko V. A. Political and legal foundations of the activity of the Russian Orthodox Church: teaching aid. Moscow-Berlin, 2016.
14. Melnik S. V. Interreligious dialogue: typologization, methodology, forms of implementation. Monograph. Moscow, 2022.
15. Modes of the religious in the contexts of philosophy, science and culture: monograph / scientific ed. O. M. Farkhitdinova. Yekaterinburg, 2021.
16. Mukhetdinov D. History of Islam in Russia. Teaching aid. Moscow, 2019.
17. Peoples and Religions of the World. Encyclopedia. Moscow, 1998.
18. Nikishin V. D. Verbal religious extremism. Legal qualification. Expertise. Judicial practice. Monograph. Moscow, 2022.
19. Odintsov M. I. State and Church in Russia: 20th century. Moscow, 1994.
20. Fundamentals of the Social Concept of the Russian Orthodox Church. Moscow, 2000.
21. Pinkevich V. K., Storchak V. M., Kravchuk V. V. Modern approaches to the analysis of ethno-religious specificity of Russian regions. Moscow, 2016.
22. Pospelovsky D. V. Russian Orthodox Church in the 20th century. Moscow, 1995.
23. Religions of Russia: Information and analytical materials on state-confessional relations / general ed. O. Yu. Vasilyeva. Moscow, 2013.
24. Religious associations. Freedom of conscience and worship: normative acts. Judicial practice. Moscow, 2004.
25. Religion, freedom of conscience, state-church relations in Russia. Reference book. Moscow, 1997.
26. Modern religious life of Russia. Experience of systematic description. In 4 volumes. 2003-2006.
27. Fedorov V. A. Russian Orthodox Church and the State. Synodal period. 1700-1917. Moscow, 2003.
28. Tsy-pin V. History of the Russian Orthodox Church. 1917-1990. Moscow, 1994.
29. Shchapov Ya. N. State and Church in Ancient Rus' of the X-XIII centuries. Moscow, 1989.
30. Elbakyan E. S. History of Religions: textbook for higher education institutions. 2nd ed., revised and expanded. Moscow, 2023.

31 Ethnicity and religion in modern conflicts / ed. by V. A. Tishkov, V. A. Shnirelman. Moscow, 2012.

Internet sources

1. **1. Electronic libraries (EL) of RUDN University and other institutions, to which university students have access on the basis of concluded agreements:**
 - RUDN Electronic Library System (RUDN ELS): <https://mega.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web>
 - EL "University Library Online": <http://www.biblioclub.ru>
 - EL "Yurait": <http://www.biblio-online.ru>
 - EL "Student Consultant": www.studentlibrary.ru
 - EL "Znanium": <https://znanium.ru/>
2. **Databases and search engines:**
 - Sage: <https://journals.sagepub.com/>
 - Springer Nature Link: <https://link.springer.com/>
 - Wiley Journal Database: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>
 - Bibliometric database Lens.org: <https://www.lens.org>

*Training toolkit for self- studies to master the course *:*

1. The set of lectures on the course "History of Religions of Russia".

* The training toolkit for self- studies to master the course is placed on the course page in the university telecommunication training and information system under the set procedure.

DEVELOPERS:

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