



Department of Religion Studies

BA Hons in Religion Studies 2020

General information

The Department of Religion Studies facilitates specialized research in Biblical and Christian Studies. As an honours student you will engage critically with religious thought, practice and texts from various perspectives. The department prepares students for academic research, teaching and ministry.

The admission requirement is a Bachelor's degree with Religion, Theology or Biblical Studies as a major OR a relevant qualification on the same level. An average of 65% in the previous qualification is required.

The degree consists of five modules of which two are compulsory: *Research Essay* and *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. You can do the degree full time in one year or part time over two years. There are bursaries available for students who study full time.

The **deadline** for Hons AND bursary applications is **31 October 2019**.

Please apply online at www.uj.ac.za and attach all the required documentation to your application.

Even if you do not have your final results of the previous qualification, you still have to apply provisionally by 31 Oct 2019.

For more information, please contact Ms Charlene Louw (clouw@uj.ac.za).

The following modules are presented in 2020

Semester 1:

Indigenous Religions & Ecology

14-week course on Monday evenings at 17h00-19h00.

Course begins on 3 February 2020.

Course content: "Living lightly" has become imperative and should not only be the fashionable "green" hobby of a few. To highlight this eco-just imperative there will be three foci: **Christian** ecological hermeneutics (e.g. Norman Habel) - the internalisation of an ecological worldview; **Dark Green**

Religion (e.g. Bron Taylor) - embracing science and religion; and indigenous African worldviews (e.g. the Southern African *San*, Zimbabwean “green *chimurenga*” and Kenyan Wangari Maathai’s “Green Belt movement”) - having had a “green sense” all along.

Lecturer: Prof Hennie Viviers hviviers@uj.ac.za

Method and Theory in the Study of Religion

14-week course on Thursday evenings at 17h00-19h00.

Course begins on 6 February 2020.

Course Content: The course provides the student a window into what it means to do research in the field of religion. The different methods and theoretical approaches in the study of religion that are discussed in the course highlight the complexity of religion as a human phenomenon. Moreover, the course is designed to prepare students for basic academic research. It familiarises the student with selected research methods and how they are applied in textual or empirical study of religion. The course is compulsory to all Hons students.

Lecturers: Dr Shahid Mathee smathee@uj.ac.za

Dr Elina Hankela elinah@uj.ac.za

Semester 2:

Christianity, Gender and Sexuality

14-week course on Monday evenings at 17h00-19h00.

Course begins on 13 July 2020.

Course Content: In light of the constant escalating violence against women and children, we introduce a course that empower you to resist violence in gender, but especially against the most vulnerable in society.

During this course, you will be introduced to Christianity and its views and attitudes towards sex, sexuality and gender.

More specifically, we will discuss the connection between sexuality, eroticism, embodiment and spirituality in Christian discourse and the impact it has on society. We also debate the influence of patriarchy in religious beliefs, practices and symbols and how these may impact on the lives of women and other marginalized gendered or sexual groups. We assess the gender - and usually male-centred - ideological constructs in Christianity; and consider how gender critical reinterpretations of androcentric religious traditions may apply to various current controversies around gender, sex, sexual identity, worship and religious leadership.

Lecturers: Prof Lilly (SJ) Nortjé-Meyer lillynm@uj.ac.za

Ms Clementine Nishimwe cnishstaug@gmail.com

Liberation Theology in Religions

14-week course on Thursday evenings at 17h00-19h00.

Course begins on 16 July 2020

Course Content: This year the liberation theologies course focuses on Christian liberation theologies, such as Black theology, African Women's theology or Latin American liberation theology. We approach liberation theologies as a 'language', or as one way of seeing the world. The course will cover topics such as the the liberationist method and epistemology in the context of liberation theologies. What are liberation theologies? How is God perceived in liberation theologies? What is 'liberation' to begin with? What are the questions that call for answers in South Africa today? Come, learn, debate.

Lecturer: Dr Elina Hankela elinah@uj.ac.za

Honours Degree designed for Teachers and Educators

Teachers who have an undergraduate degree in Education (BEd or BA Ed) can apply to do Honours in Religion Studies. However, those students with no undergraduate qualification in Religion, Theology or Biblical Studies will be required to do an RPL (Recognition of Previous Learning).

While you will attend the modules offered by the department with the rest of the honours cohort (see above), one of your five modules can be chosen from an Hons programme in Education (BEd Hons).

Teacher, join us and gain knowledge and skills for participating meaningfully in everyday debates about religion and religious issues in and out of the classroom! *Educator*, come and study critical approaches to personal, societal and global concerns and ethical issues that touch the life of the learners in your classroom!