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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA
RUDN University**

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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

COURSE SYLLABUS

History of Religions in Russia

course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

36.05.01 Veterinary

field of studies / speciality code and title

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

Veterinary

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The goal of the course “History of Religions in Russia” is acquiring knowledge, skills and abilities 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, religious, cultural, value and legal characteristics relevant to the traditional spiritual and moral values of the Russian Federation, state-religious relations in the Russian Federation.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course “History of Religions in Russia” is aimed at the development of the following competences /competences in part:

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

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
UC-2	Ability (student can analyze and take into account cultural diversity in the process of intercultural interaction)	UC-5.1. understands the development features and socio-cultural differences of different countries and peoples, taking into account their historical past, and is able to take these features into account in the course of intercultural interaction; UC-5.2. constructively interacts with representatives of different countries and peoples in the context of solving professional problems; UC-5.3. demonstrates a deep understanding of the specifics of traditions, history and the role of Russia in the world-historical process and is able to professionally and convincingly explain these features in the course of intercultural communication.

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the core/variable/elective* component of B block of the higher educational programme curriculum.

* - Underline whatever applicable.

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

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total workload of the course “History of Religions in Russia” is 2 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
			1
<i>Contact academic hours</i>		34	34
including:			
Lectures (LC)		17	17
Lab work (LW)		0	0
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		17	17
<i>Self-studies</i>		29	29
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam/passing/failing grade)</i>		9	9
Course workload	academic hours	72	72
	credits	2	2

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

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

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
	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 Christianization in the context of Russian geographical discoveries.	LC, S
	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

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
	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
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. Balzer, Marjorie Mandelstam. Religion and Politics in Russia: A Reader. Routledge, 2015.
2. Nassimov M.O. The Relationship between Religious Identity and Ethnic Identity: Views of Russian Scientists // Religious Studies. 2024. Vol. 4. P. 76-86.
3. Novik Benjamin. Analysis of "The Fundamentals of Social Conception of the Russian Orthodox Church" // Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe. 2022. Vol. 22 . Iss. 5. Article 2.

Additional readings:

1. Cambridge studies of religion: stage 6 / Christopher Hartney, Jon Noble. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
2. Filatov Sergei; Lunkin Roman. Statistics on Religion in Russia: The Reality Behind the Figures // Religion, State & Society. 2006. Vol. 34 No. 1. P. 33-49.
3. Religion in world history: the persistence of imperial communion / John C.. Super and Briane K. Turley. N.Y.: Routledge, 2006.
4. Swinburne Richard. The Existence of God. 2nd ed. 2004.

Internet sources

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) <http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web>
- EL "University Library Online" <http://www.biblioclub.ru>
- EL "Yurayt" <http://www.biblio-online.ru>
- EL "Student Consultant" www.studentlibrary.ru
- EL "Lan" <http://e.lanbook.com/>
- EL "Trinity Bridge"

2. Databases and search engines:

- electronic foundation of legal and normative-technical documentation <http://docs.cntd.ru/>
- Yandex search engine [https:// www .yandex.ru/](https://www.yandex.ru/)
- Google search engine <https://www.google.ru/>
- Scopus abstract database <http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus/>

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

1. The set of lectures on the course “History of Religions in 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:

**Assistant Professor of Department of History of
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Viktor Barashkov

position, department

name and surname

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