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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA
(RUDN University)**

Institute of Environmental Engineering

COURSE SYLLABUS

HISTORY OF RELIGIONS IN RUSSIA

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:
05.04.06 "Ecology and Nature Management"

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

Integrated Solid Waste Management

The discipline "History of Religions in Russia" is part of the Master's program "Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management" in the field of study 05.04.06 "Ecology and Environmental Management" and is studied in the [semester] of the [year]. The discipline is delivered by the Department of History of Philosophy. The discipline consists of 3 sections and 16 topics and is aimed at studying the religious traditions of Russia in the context of the formation of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values and all-Russian civic identity.

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

• 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

The process of studying the discipline is aimed at the formation of the following competencies:

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators
GC-5	Capable of analyzing and taking into account the diversity of cultures in the course of intercultural communication.	GC-5.1 Knows international practices of harmonizing the relationship between human society and nature in order to achieve sustainable development;
		GC-5.2 Knows and understands the characteristics of different cultures and nations;
		GC-5.3 Possesses the skills of building social interaction while taking into account the common and distinctive differences of cultures and religions.

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The discipline "History of Religions in Russia" is allocated to the elective (optional) disciplines of the FTD block of the higher education program.

Within the context of the higher education program, students also engage with other disciplines and/or practical training activities that facilitate the attainment of the intended learning outcomes of the course "History of Religions in Russia."

Table 3.1. Inventory of higher education program components that support the achievement of the planned learning outcomes of the discipline.

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules, internships*	Subsequent courses/modules, internships*
GC-5	Capable of analyzing and taking into account the diversity of cultures in the course of intercultural communication.	Philosophical problems of nature sciences;	Pre-Graduation Practice

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total workload of the course is 3 credit units.

Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the period of the HE program(me) mastering

Types of academic activities	Total hours	Semester(s)			
		1	2	3	4
<i>Contact academic hours</i>	34	34			
Lectures	18	18			
Lab works					
Seminars (workshops/tutorials)	18	18			
<i>Self-study</i>	54	54			
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam; pass/fail grading)</i>	18	18			
The total course workload	hours	108	108		
	credits	3	3		

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. The content of the discipline (module) by type of educational work

Title of Course Modules	Content	Types of academic activities
Module 1 Historical and Religious Studies Section	Topic 1.1. Definition of religion. The role and importance of religion in history and social life. Religiosity. Early historical forms of religion. Religions and religious denominations. Religion in non-literate societies and in Antiquity.	L, S
	Topic 1.2. Prehistory of Christianity: The Middle East in the 1st millennium BCE. Old Testament Judaism. Judaism of the Second Temple period. Formation and codification of the Old Testament canon. Judaism and Antiquity. Modern Judaism.	L, S
	Topic 1.3 The origins of Christianity. The formation and codification of the New Testament canon. The Ecumenical Councils. The Symbol of Faith (Creed). Christian theological doctrine. Christianity prior to the schism between the churches.	L, S
	Topic 1.4 The Great Schism. Characteristics of Eastern and Western Christianity. World Orthodoxy. Catholicism. Protestantism. Local Orthodox Churches. Ancient Eastern Churches.	
	Topic 1.5 The emergence of Islam. The Qur'an and Sunnah. The Pillars of Islam and the foundations of faith. Sunnism, Shiism, Ibadism, Sufism. The spread of Islam. Contemporary Islam.	
	Topic 1.6 Buddhism: origins and basic ideas. Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana. Major Buddhist texts. Buddhism in Tibet and Central Asia. Contemporary Buddhism.	
	Topic 1.7 The religious landscape of the contemporary world. New religious movements (NRMs). Religious radicalism and extremism. Risks and threats within the religious domain.	
Module 2. Historical aspects of the formation of Russia as a multi-	Topic 2.1. From Ancient Rus' to the Russian State. The Baptism of Alania. The Baptism of Rus'. The adoption of Islam by the peoples of Volga Bulgaria.	L, S

Title of Course Modules	Content	Types of academic activities
confessional state-civilization.	The formation of a unified cultural space. Russia and the Horde. The struggle against the expansion of the Crusaders. The formation of the unified Russian State. The establishment of autocephaly of the Russian Church.	
	Topic 2.2. Russia in the 16th–17th centuries: from Grand Duchy to Tsardom. Russia as a multinational and multi-confessional power. The establishment of the Patriarchate. The role of the Russian Church in overcoming the Time of Troubles. The reforms of Patriarch Nikon and the emergence of the Old Believers. The integration of peoples traditionally professing Islam. The development of Orthodox and Muslim clergy. Missionary work and Christianization in the context of Russian geographical discoveries.	L, S
	Topic 2.3 Russia in the late 17th – 18th centuries: from Tsardom to Empire. The Church reform of Peter the Great. The strengthening of religious tolerance. Recognition of Buddhism. The Russian Empire in the 19th – early 20th centuries. Religious life at the beginning of the 20th century.	L, S
	Topic 2.4 Russia in the "Years of Great Upheavals." Religion in Soviet society. The All-Russian Local Council of 1917 and the restoration of the Patriarchate. The Decree on the separation of the Church from the state and the school from the Church. Renovationism (Obnovlenchestvo). The policy of the Soviet state toward religion. The role of religious organizations in the Great Patriotic War. The revival of religious life in the 1980s–1990s.	L, S
	Topic 2.5 Religious life in contemporary Russia. State-religious and interreligious relations. Traditional religions of the Russian Federation.	L, S
	Module 3. Religious traditions of Russia and traditional Russian spiritual and moral values.	Topic 3.1. The human being and his place in the world. Christian, Islamic, Buddhist, and Jewish theological anthropologies. The body and consciousness (or mind/spirit). Birth and death. The value and meaning(s) of earthly human life. Human dignity. Religion and ethics (moral systems). Posthumous existence (the afterlife). Ancestral memory (commemoration of forebears).
Topic 3.2. The concept of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values. The commonality of spiritual and moral values for believers and non-believers. Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism on public morality. The ethics of creative labor and human compassion/love of humanity. Family values. The religious traditions of Russia on mercy, social justice, collectivism, mutual aid, and mutual respect.		L, S

Title of Course Modules	Content	Types of academic activities
	Topic 3.3 Religious traditions of Russia and the all-Russian civic identity. Service to the Fatherland and responsibility for its fate. Historical memory of joint peaceful creation/cultivation and joint defense of the Motherland. The historically established spiritual and moral unity of the peoples of Russia. Russia as a multi-confessional state-civilization.	L, S
	Topic 3.4 Russian legislation on religious associations. Missionary activity. Religious property. Cultural heritage sites. State-religious relations. The Council for Cooperation with Religious Associations under the President of the Russian Federation. The Interreligious Council of Russia. Religious studies expertise (expertise in religious studies). Religious organizations of the Russian Federation and the task of preserving and strengthening traditional Russian spiritual and moral values.	L, S

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom equipment and technology support requirements

Classroom for Academic Activity Type	Classroom equipment	Specialized educational / laboratory equipment, software and materials for mastering the course (if necessary)
Lecture	Classroom, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; whiteboard; a set of devices includes portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless	Classroom, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; whiteboard; a set of devices includes portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless
Seminars	Classroom, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; whiteboard; a set of devices includes portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless	Internet connection. Software: Microsoft Windows, MS Office / Office 365, MS Teams, Chrome (latest stable release), Skype. Microsoft Windows 7 corporate. License No. 5190227, date of issue March 16, 2010 MS Office 2007 Prof, License # 6842818, date of issue 09/07/2009
For Self-Study	Classroom for self-study (can be used for seminars and consultations), equipped with a set of devices includes laptop, stable wireless.	No

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main reading:

1 . Mithans, Gašper Tóth, Heléna Benussi, Matteo Conversions in Central and Eastern Europe Taylor & Francis London, 2026 <https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/112951>

2 «An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion: Classical and Contemporary Perspectives» (Inger Furseth и Pál Repstad, 2024) http://encore.lib.utas.edu.au/iii/encore/search/C_Rb4167080_SReligion%20and%20sociology._P0%2C6_Orightresult_X3;jsessionid=D7A64EA411F098E1253522891F42E0D7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt

Additional reading:

1 Richard Holloway A Little History of Religion 2016 <https://oceanofpdf.com/authors/richard-holloway/pdf-epub-a-little-history-of-religion-download/>

Internet-based sources

1. ELS of RUDN University and third-party ELS, to which university students have access on the basis of concluded agreements:

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

2. Databases and search engines:

- electronic fund 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/>
- abstract database SCOPUS [http:// www .elsevierscience.ru/ products / scopus /](http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus/)

8. ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT AND GRADING SYSTEM FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES LEVEL UPON COURSE COMPLETION

The assessment toolkit and the grading system to evaluate the level of competences (competences in part) formation as results of mastering the discipline are specified in the Appendix to the syllabus.

DEVELOPER:

Assosiate Professor

Position

Varvara Igorevna Chernykh

Name, Surname

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Director of the Department

Position

Nur Serikovich Kirabaev

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HEAD OF PROGRAMME:

Associate Professor of the NM
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Position

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