

**TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT:** Annual; 1st Semester

**CREDITS:** 6

**COURSE TEACHER(S):** Dr. Junxi QIAN

**ASSESSMENT:**

EXAMINATION 60 %	COURSEWORK 40 %
•Two-hour examination (open book)	• Group Project

**OBJECTIVES:**

At the theoretical level, the course aims to sharpen students’ knowledge about religion and space to understand religious cultures, practices and identities as situated, context-specific and dynamically changing. At the practical level, the course encourages students to appreciate religious spaces and practices as central to specific groups’ identities, their everyday life, and more importantly their subjective wellbeing and sustainable social life.

**COURSE SYNOPSIS:**

Religion is one of the most important domains of human cultural experiences, and knowledge about religion constitutes a key part of people’s everyday cultural competencies. This course adopts a geographical perspective to reveal the multiplex relationships between religion and space. It consists of three major components. The first uses a traditional cultural geographical perspective to understand the spatial patterns of religions’ origins, their spatial diffusion, and the current cultural maps of the world’s major religions. The second adopts a perspective of social construction to examine the re-imagining and re-invention of religion in highly modern contexts, the mutual penetration and contestation between the religious and the secular, and the articulation of cultural identities through religious spaces and practices. Finally, the course engages with the context of globalization and discusses mobilities of religion, such as global evangelical movements, the rise of global religious markets, and the cross-border movements of religious beliefs, organizations, and actors.

**LECTURE TOPICS:**

- The spatial patterns of the origin and diffusion of the world’s major religions
- The contemporary distributions and centers of faith for the world’s major religions
- Religious spaces in modernity and their relationships to the secular world
- Religious spaces as articulations of cultural identities and cultural politics
- Everyday spiritualities and occult cultures in the modern world
- Postsecularity and the revival of public religion
- Global evangelical movements and religious market
- Cross-border religious mobilities

**RECOMMENDED READING LIST:**

- Stump, R W. (2008). The geography of religion: Faith, place, and space. Lanham, ML: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Kong, L. (2010). Global Shifts, Theoretical Shifts: Changing Geographies of Religion. Progress in Human Geography 34.6: 755–776.
- Cloke, P, Beaumont, J. (2013). Postsecular rapprochement in the city. Progress in Human Geography 37.1: 27-51

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:		Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*						Course Assessment Methods
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Understand basic concepts and theories in the geography of religion	✓	✓					Group project and Exam
2	Have a broader awareness about the cultural maps of religions across the world	✓	✓					Exam
3	Employ theories of social construction and religious mobilities to analyze the production of space and spatial processes that are central to religious movements, organizations, and practices		✓		✓	✓		Group project and Exam
4	Develop inter-cultural competencies in the understanding of religions and religious cultures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Group project
5	Use concepts and theories in the geography of religion to analyze specific religious movements and cultures		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Group project and Exam

### **\*Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

**PLO1** critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;

**PLO2** demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;

**PLO3** identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;

**PLO4** integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;

**PLO5** participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and

**PLO6** effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.