PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM
Dr Lukas Pokorny
King’s College, King’s Quadrangle KCF19
l.pokorny@abdn.ac.uk / 01224 272382
Office hours upon arrangement

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
divrs@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE
Lecture: Thursday, 9-11am (KCF22)
Tutorial: Tuesday, 2-3pm (Taylor A26)
Tuesday, 4-5pm (KCF6)

Tutorials run in Weeks 2-7 and 10-11

Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course develops a Religious Studies perspective on religions. Religions of the past and the present will be explored in their historical, systematic, and practical/ritual dimensions.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The aim is to provide students with a basic understanding of how Religious Studies works and how it promotes the academic study of the practices and beliefs of a range of religious traditions.
Students will
• have learnt to distinguish a Religious-Studies perspective from other academic and non-academic perspectives
• understand religious traditions as multi-dimensional constructs
• be able to interpret the basic features of the traditions studied
be able to critically read and analyse primary and secondary sources dealing with religion/s.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
1 two-hour lecture per week plus 8 one-hour tutorials.

INTRODUCTION
[Week 1 – Jan 21]

Zoroastrianism
[Week 2 – Jan 28]


MANICHAEISM

[Week 3 – Feb 4]


NEW WORLD RELIGIONS 1

[Week 4 – Feb 11]


NEW WORLD RELIGIONS 2

[Week 5 – Feb 18]


SHAMANISM 1

[Week 6 – Feb 25]

**SHAMANISM 2**

[Week 7 – Mar 3]


**GERMANIC (NORSE) RELIGION 1**

[Week 8 – Mar 10]
Readings: Excerpts from the Poetic *Edda* (*Prologue & The Seeress’s Prophecy*)


Recommended for further studies: Norse Religion in Long-term Perspectives: Origins, Changes, and Interactions, ed. Anders Andrén, Kristina Jennbert and Catharina Raudvere (Lund, 2006) [online access through ebrary]

**GERMANIC (NORSE) RELIGION 2**

[Week 9 – Mar 17]
Readings: Brink, Stefan (ed.), *The Viking World*. London & New York: Routledge, 2008. Ch. 16 (pp. 212-234) & Ch. 17 (pp. 235-248) [ebrary]

**RELIGION OF THE CELTS 1**

[Week 10 – Mar 24]
Readings: TBA

**RELIGION OF THE CELTS 2**

[Week 11 – Mar 31]
Readings: TBA

**READINGS**

Unless otherwise noted, readings will be available online on *MyAberdeen*.

Students are required to have read the assigned readings before attending the lectures and tutorials and bring copies of the assigned readings with them at each lecture/tutorial.
ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

1st Attempt: One 2,000-word essay (40%); 1 two-hour written exam (60%).
Resit: 1 two-hour written exam (100%).

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

ESSAYS

Essays should be 2,000 words long, including quotations and footnotes; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or too short (10% rule).

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS

Choose ONE of the following:

1. What would a Mayan scholar identify as the key failings of Scottish religion? Ground your argument in the course lectures and readings.
2. Use material from the dualist traditions to show that the claim ‘all religions are just different approaches to the same ultimate reality’ is false.
3. Can anybody become a shaman? Base your argument on the lectures and readings for the course.
4. Explain the social role of shamanistic practice with reference to a particular shamanic tradition.
5. What do we mean when we speak of 'Old Norse religion'?  

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Essays due by 3:00pm Friday, March 11th 2016

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS, ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:
**Hard Copy:** One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an **Assessment cover sheet**, – this should have your ID number **CLEARLY** written on the cover sheet, with **NO** name and **NO** signature but **EVERYTHING ELSE** filled in – and should be delivered to the **Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds**.

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via [MyAberdeen](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/). (for instructions please see [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/)) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

*Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark.*

*N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.*

**EXAMINATION**
The exam is a two-hour written examination.

**RESIT INFORMATION**
One two-hour written examination (100%).

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CGS E3 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7’s are not eligible for resits.

*Past exam papers can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).*