M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester – II

Comparative Religion

Course: MACOMRCP201

Ritual Studies

Time: 3 hours **Full Marks: 60**

Answer **any four** questions

Each question is of value as indicated in the margin

1. Show how rituals are seen as tools for sociocultural integration of opposing forces by modern ritual theorists. 15
2. Explain the cultural theory of ritual given by Clifford Geertz with special emphasis on the three stages of dichotomies embedded in rituals. 15
3. How does Clifford Geertz differentiate between society and culture? Explain the differentiation with the example of a failed ritual as given by Geertz. 15
4. What is ritualization? Why is ritualization important for technologically advanced societies? Discuss. 15
5. How does 'meaning' emerge for the ritual actors and the ritual theorists through the enactment and observation of rituals? Discuss after Clifford Geertz. 15
6. Can formality, fixity and repetition be understood as the essential characteristics of rituals? Discuss, following Catherine Bell. Do you agree with Catherine Bell that the main aim of ritualization is to create nuanced contrasts with other social activities? Give your views. 15

M.A. Examination, 2024
Semester II
Comparative Religion
Course: MACOMRSP-203
Religion in the Contemporary World

Time: 3 Hours **Full Marks: 60**

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer **any four** questions.

1. What are the arguments given by Ashish Nandy against Secularism in his 'Anti Secularist Manifesto'? What are the main objections raised against his position? Explain. 15

2. How do you distinguish between 'secularism' and 'secularization'? Do you think that secularization is a precondition for adopting secularism as constitutional value? Justify your answer with example. 5+10=15

3. Briefly describe the Mohd. Ahmed Khan Vs Shah Bano Begum case of 1985. Do you think that the case transformed judiciary into the most powerful organ of Indian democracy? Give reasons for your answer. 10+5=15

4. Why does T. N. Madan opine that Secularism is not a proper ideology for a country like India? Do you agree with him? Justify your answer. 10+5=15

5. What is Gandhi's view on the relation between politics and religion? Why is he called as the spiritual father of Indian secularism? Explain and Examine. 5+10=15

6. Give a brief account of the historical development of the notion of Indian Secularism. Did Supreme Court's declaration of Hinduism as a way of life contribute to its further development? Justify your answer. 15

M. A. Final Examination – 2024

Semester - II

Comparative Religion

MACOMRCP 204 – Methodology, Textual Study & Dissertation

Duration: 2 Hrs. **Max. Marks: 20**

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

Answer any FOUR of the following questions:

1. What is research? Explain briefly the importance of research. **2 + 3**

2. Enumerate the major types of research and describe briefly any one of them. **2 + 3**

3. What is review of literature? How can it help a research to find research gap? **2 + 3**

4. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative methods of research. **2.5 + 2.5**

5. Illustrate a sole authored book in both APA and Chicago styles bibliography. **2.5 + 2.5**

6. Write a short note on **ANY TWO** of the followings; **2.5 + 2.5**

   i. Planning Research
   ii. Note-taking
   iii. Footnote
   iv. Endnote

M. A. Comparative Religion Examination, 2024
Semester – II

Paper: Philosophy of Religion (Advanced)

Time: 3 Hours MA COMR CP 202

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value or as indicated in the margin

Answer any 4 questions

1. Explain in detail the relationship between phenomenology of philosophy and phenomenology of religion. 7.5 + 7.5
2. Describe the methods and types of phenomenology and critically evaluate them in the light of religious experience and consciousness. 8+7
3. Explain how Kierkegaard's personal experience is closely connected with his philosophical reflections. 15
4. In what sense truth is subjective, and how an individual may be in truth even if what she believes is objectively uncertain or false? Explain, after Kierkegaard. 15
5. Compare the onto-theological and the secularization theses of Nietzsche's famous proclamation "God is dead". Which thesis is often seen as a better interpretation than the other and why? Explain. 10+5
6. Write a short note on any three of the following phenomenologists: 5+5+5
   a) Martin Heidegger
   b) G. Van der Leeuw
   c) Joachim Wach
   d) Mircea Eliade
   e) Rudolf Otto