<div align="center">

Sociology of Religion
M.A. (Hons.) Sociology, Semester II , 2020

</div>

Course Objective:

This course is designed to examine faith as a mode of reason and attempts to distinguish between the theological and the sociological approaches to it. It problematizes the definition of religion and uses the multiplicity within religions to critique hegemonic, unitary models that serve to homogenize and reify an incoherent, messy experience.

Further, the course seeks to familiarize students with the sociological coordinates of contemporary debates around religion that one encounters in the contemporary world. The possibilities of democracy and dialogue enabled through religion have to be understood alongside events like banning of the veil in France, rise of Islamophobia post 9/11. Particularly in the context of the present, the (in)translatablity of traditional formats onto the digitalopen up ways of thinking about religion that nudge us to rethink and reassess the human relationship with the divine that is mediated by technology.

Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of the present course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the manner in which religion as a worldview competes with other modes of conceptualizing the world.
2. Examine in a comparative manner, the link between religion and identity and the manner in which it is constructed.
3. Develop a nuanced understanding of the political economy that sustains and is sustained by religion in public life.
4. Question the ease (or lack thereof) of translating religion onto virtual spaces.
5. Develop insights regarding the creative potential of religion that contributes to particular forms of the artistic and the aesthetic.

Unit I:Religion as Worldview

1. Ideas, Institutions and Practices
2. Sociological approachto religion
3. Religion/ non-religion and multiplicities within

Offg.\Head
Department of Sociology
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi-110025
19.02.2020

Unit II: Religion in the Everyday

1. Comparing religions: Identity and Ethics
2. Intersections: Caste and Gender
3. Sects,Saints and shrines, Novel forms of religiosity

Unit III: Religion and Dialogue

1. Religion in the virtual realm
2. Secularism, Communalism and Fundamentalism
3. Religion and Creativity

Essential Readings:

1. Agamben, Giorgio. 2019. Creation and Anarchy: The Work of Art and the Religion of Capitalism, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
2. Alter, Joseph. 1992. The Wrestler's Body: Identity and Ideology in North India, University of California Press, California.
3. Asad, Talal. 2003. Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam and Modernity, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
4. AsadTalal. 1993. Genealogies of Religion: Disciplines and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam, Johns Hopkins University Press.
5. Asad, Talal. 1983. Anthropological Conceptions of Religion: Reflections on Geertz in *Man*, New Series, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 237-259.
6. Barrett, Ronald L. 2005.Aghor Medicine: Pollution, Death and Healing in North India, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California.
7. Berger, Peter. 1967. The Sacred Canopy. Garden City, New York.
8. Campbell, Colin. 1971. Toward a Sociology of Irrelegion. The Macmillan Press Ltd., London and Basingstoke.
9. Campbell, Heidi (ed.). 2013. Digital Religion: Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds. Routledge, London and New York.
10. Durkheim, Emile. 1995. The Elementary Forms of Religious Life. *Translation by Karen Fields*. The Feee Press, New York.
11. Flanagan, K. (2001). Reflexivity, Ethics and the Teaching of the Sociology of Religion. *Sociology, 35*(1), 1-19.
12. Gandhi, Ramachandra. 2015. 'Brahmacharya' in The Seven Sages, Penguin.
13. Geertz, Clifford. 1973. 'Religion as a Cultural System' in The Interpretation of Culture, Basic Books, New York.
14. Gilsenan, Michael. 2000. Recognizing Islam: Religion and Society in the Modern Middle East, I.B.Tauris.
15. Henn, Alexander. Hindu Catholic Engagements in Goa: Religion, Colonialism and Modernity
16. Hojsgaard, Morten and Margit Warburg (ed.). 2005. Religion and Cyberspace. Routledge, London and New York.

Offg. Ñead
Department of Sociology
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi-110025
19.02.2020

17.   Juergensmeyer, Mark. Terror in the Mind of God.

18.   Kaur, Kulwinder. 'Canon, modernity and practice of Rahit in defining Sikh identity', in *Eastern Anthropologist*, 69:1 (2016), pp.37-50.

19.   Lester, Rebecca. Jesus in Our Wombs: Embodying Modernity in a Mexican Convent.

20.   Marx, Karl. 1970. Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right, Oxford University Press.

21.   Mauss, Marcel. 2003. On Prayer, BergahnBooks, New York.

22.   McGuire, Meredith B. 2008. Lived Religion: Faith and Practice in Everyday Life, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

23.   Nandy Ashish, 1995.An Anti Secularist Manifesto.*International Centre Quarterly*, 22(1), 35-64.

24.   Plate, Brent S. 2005. Walter Benjamin, Religion and Aesthetics: Rethinking Religion through the Arts. Routledge, New York.

25.   Saler, Benson. 1999. Conceptualizing Religion: Immanent Anthropologists, Transcendent Natives, and Unbounded Categories.

26.   Schilbrack, Kevin. 2013. What *Isn't* Religion? In *The Journal of Religion*, Vol. 93, No. 3 (July 2013), pp. 291-318.

27.   Skaria, Ajay. 2016. Unconditional Equality: Gandhi's Religion of Resistance, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, MN.

28.   Uberoi, JPS. 2019. 'Metaphysics of the Indian Modernity: The Theory of the Name' in Mind and Society: From Indian Studies to General Sociology, Oxford University Press.

29.   Uberoi, JPS. 1991. 'The Five Symbols of Sikhism' in T. N. Madan (ed.) Religion in India, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

30.   Weber, Max. The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism

31.   Wuthman, Robert. 2003. Studying Religion, making it Sociological in M. Dillon (ed.) Handbook of the Sociology of Religion, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Offg. Head
Department of Sociology
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi-110025

19.02.2020