

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

VERITAS UNIVERSITY, ABUJA

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT:

The Department of Religious Studies, Veritas University, Abuja, is one of the academic departments in the College of Humanities. The Department was established pursuant to the Philosophy of Religious Studies as articulated by the National Universities Commission (NUC) BMAS which has it that it shall "...cover all facets of religious phenomena as they affect the history, tradition, economic, social, political and ethics of man". To train and develop adequate skilled human resources whose minds are well developed and conducive to a pluralistic society such as Nigeria and Africa.

The Department has its early days as a program within the Department of Philosophy, in the College of Humanities at the 2016/2017 academic session. That same academic year, precisely on the 30th of March, 2017 and at the 70th Senate Meeting the Vice Chancellor, Professor Michael Kwanashie demerged the programmes. From its inception, the Department of Religious Studies at Veritas University has strived to provide a high quality humanistic education in an environment that encourages the development of critical, analytical, and creative skills needed to succeed in today's multi-cultural and aggressively globalizing world.

The design of the Department's curriculum in Religious Studies is guided by the core of our mission statement which is "To enable students acquire critical skills about the implications of religion and culture in human society (Nigeria); especially on how religion and culture affect relationships across sub-ethnic cultures, ethnic communities, peoples and nations". The Department prides itself on the globally informed, internationally sound and locally relevant curriculum that is both historical and contemporary in nature and focus.

VISION:

- The vision of the Department is to contribute to an interdisciplinary and develop foster deeper knowledge of the academic study of Religion as a socio-cultural discipline that is pursued objectively and analytically with an aim to x-ray how religion shapes and is in-turn shaped by human cultures, societies and individuals.
- To excel in the socio-cultural study of Religious Studies with a view to nurture and develop courses that are offered through teaching and research pursued with ethical scruples and creativity in search of the truth, a just, harmonious and peaceful society.

MISSION:

To competently and periodically structure the discipline with due consideration to the needs of students and general societal demands and as a resultantly enhance the historical, cultural, political, economic, social, and ethical development of the country through multiple teaching methods towards the advancement of individual students and for the betterment of society (humanity).

PHILOSOPHY (AIMS AND OBJECTIVES):

This program is designed to create a teaching and learning community, to impart appropriate skills, knowledge, behaviour and attitude to promote the pursuit and the advancement of truth; to advance the frontiers of knowledge that are relevant to national and global development; to engender a sense of selfless service in the public and socio-religious sectors in the Nigeria society; and to produce thorough-bred and disciplined students with excellent knowledge and expertise who shall be able to demonstrate competence in any area of endeavour they may choose to go into after graduation from Veritas University.

- To expose the students to understand the general features of Religious Studies as proceeds of the socio-cultural phenomena and stimuli
- To acquaint students with the major contents of the popular religious traditions in Nigeria
- To enable students acquire critical skills about the implications of religion and culture in human society (Nigeria); especially on how religion and culture affect relationships across sub-ethnic cultures, ethnic communities and peoples
- To appraise the historical, sociological, anthropological, theological and ethical dimensions of religions and cultures in the contemporary world
- To equip our graduates with the cultural, moral and ethical know-how for launching into other related disciplines and professions such as Law and Morality, Policy Analysis, Critique of Religion, Public Administration, Corruption and Graft Agencies, Social Work, Conflict Resolution, Diplomacy, Human Resources Management, Public Relations, Intercultural and Ethnic Relations in Nigeria, Africa and World

DEPARTMENTAL CURRICULUM

S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	STATUS	CREDIT UNIT
1	GES 111	Communication in English I	COMP	2
2	GES 115	History and Philosophy of Science	COMP	2
3	GES 113	Nigerian Peoples and Culture	COMP	2

4	GES 121	Use of Library, Study Skill and ICT	COMP	2
5	REL 101	Introduction to Religious Studies	COMP	2
6	REL 111	Sources of Christianity	COMP	2
7	REL 121	Survey of African Traditional Religion	COMP	2
8	REL 131	Sources of Islam	COMP	2
9	REL 141	Introduction to Social Anthropology of Religion	REQ	2
10	REL 151	Fundamental Greek	REQ	2
11	SOC 111	Introduction to Sociology	REQ	2
		TOTAL		22
	YEAR 1	SECOND SEMESTER		
1	GSS 122	Communication in English II	COMP	2
2	GSS 112	Logic, Philosophy and Human Existence	COMP	2
3	GSS 124	Communication in French	COMP	2
4	GES 142	Community Service	COMP	1
5	THG 122	Introduction to Church History	COMP	2
6	REL 102	Religion and Human Values I	COMP	2
7	REL 112	The Sunnah and the Hadith of the Prophet	COMP	2
8	REL 122	Introducing Asian Religions	COMP	2
9	REL 132	Introduction to the Old Testament	REQ	2
10	REL 142	Cultural Anthropology of Religion	REQ	2
11	REL 152	New Testament Greek	REQ	2
12	REL 162	Field Trip	REQ	1
		TOTAL		22
	YEAR 2	FIRST SEMESTER		

1	GSS 221	Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution	REQ	2
2	GSS 223	Entrepreneurship and Innovation	REQ	2
3	THG 211	Basic Spiritual Theology	REQ	2
4	REL 201	Definition of Religion: A Variety	COMP	2
5	REL 211	Introduction to the New Testament	COMP	2
6	REL 221	Introduction to the Glorious Qur'an	COMP	2
7	REL 231	Introducing Comparative Religion	REQ	2
8	REL 241	Introducing Sociology of Religion	REQ	2
9	REL 251	Theories of Religion	REQ	2
10	REL 261	Biblical Hebrew I	REQ	2
11	REL 271	History of Christianity in West Africa	REQ	2
12	REL 281	Religion and Human Sexuality	REQ	2
		TOTAL		24
	YEAR 2	SECOND SEMESTER		
1	GSS 212	Business Creation and Growth	REQ	2
2	THG 272	Social Teachings of the Church	REQ	2
3	REL 202	African Traditional Religion and Culture	COMP	2
4	REL 212	Introducing Philosophy of Religion	COMP	2
5	REL 222	Introduction to Ethics	REQ	2
6	REL 232	New Testament Studies I	REQ	2
7	REL 242	Religion, Science, and Technology	REQ	2
8	REL 252	Biblical Hebrew II	REQ	2

9	REL 262	Theories of Culture	REQ	2
10	REL 272	Religion and Politics	REQ	2
11	REL 282	Women and Gender Studies in Religion	REQ	2
		TOTAL		22
	YEAR 3	FIRST SEMESTER		
1	REL 301	New Testament Studies II	COMP	2
2	REL 311	The Four Orthodox Caliphs in Islam	COMP	2
3	REL 321	History of the Reformation	COMP	2
4	REL 331	Research Methods	COMP	2
5	REL 341	The Spirit World of the African	REQ	2
6	REL 351	The Religion of China: Taoism	REQ	2
7	REL 361	Old Testament Studies I	REQ	2
8	REL 371	Religion and Cultural Tourism	REQ	2
9	REL 381	Bio-Medical Ethics	REQ	2
10	REL 391	Religion, Conflict and Peace	REQ	2
11	ELS 3371	Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics	ELECT	2
12	HIR 3481	International Politics	ELECT	2
13	PSD 351	Politics of Development & Underdevelopment	ELECT	2
		TOTAL		22
	YEAR 3	SECOND SEMESTER		
1	REL 302	History of Religions	COMP	2
2	REL 312	Religion and Human Values II	COMP	2
3	REL 322	History of Islam in West Africa	COMP	2
4	REL 332	Research Methods in Religious Studies	COMP	2

5	REL 342	Business Ethics and Moral Economy	REQ	2
6	REL 352	Philosophy of Religion	REQ	2
7	REL 362	Introducing Psychology of Religion	REQ	2
8	REL 372	African Religion in Diaspora	REQ	2
9	REL 382	Religion, Human Rights and Security Issues	REQ	2
10	REL 392	Intercultural Communication	REQ	2
11	HIR 3172	Issues in African Historiography	ELECT	2
12	PHL 308	Social and Political Philosophy	ELECT	2
13	PSD 332	Theories of International Relations	ELECT	2
14	PAD 3452	Development Administration	ELECT	2
		TOTAL		22
	YEAR 4	FIRST SEMESTER		
1	REL 401	The Writing of the Old and New Testaments	COMP	2
2	REL 411	Nigerian Church History	COMP	2
3	REL 421	Islamic Theology	COMP	2
4	REL 431	Old Testament Studies II	COMP	2
5	REL 441	The Supreme Being in African Traditional Religion	REQ	2
6	REL 451	Religion, Philanthropy and Humanitarian Studies	REQ	2
7	REL 461	Religion, Media and Globalization	REQ	2
8	REL 471	Religion and Human Development	REQ	2
9	REL 481	Religious Diversity and Intercultural Management	REQ	2
		TOTAL		18
	YEAR 4	SECOND SEMESTER		

1	REL 402	Religion and the Nigerian Nation	COMP	2
2	REL 412	Contemporary Islamic Groups in Nigeria	COMP	2
3	REL 422	Religious Dialogue and Diplomacy	COMP	2
4	REL 432	Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development	REQ	2
5	REL 442	Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Religion, Culture and Society	COMP	2
6	REL 452	Research Project	COMP	6
		TOTAL		16
		GRAND TOTAL OF CREDIT UNITS		168

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT:

Fr. Amadi I. Anthony, CSSp– Pioneer HoD (2017-Till Date)

Fr. Barnabas Samaila Shabayang – Chairman, Handbook Committee

Mr. Ikechukwu Maxwell Ukandu, Snr. – Examination Officer, Timetable Officer and Secretary, Departmental Board

Sr. Maria Ekene Aganoke – Departmental GES Coordinator