

HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD**Title of Programme**

Master of Studies in Study of Religions

Brief note about nature of change: Syllabus updates

Effective date

With immediate effect

(For first examination in 2014-15)

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2014

Detail of change

1 p. 605, ll.19-37, delete 'The aim of this paper... in the modern world', and substitute 'This paper will require that students demonstrate an advanced understanding of the main classical and contemporary approaches to the study of religions. It will cover the work of some of the most important scholars in the field, and consider the history of the field of the study of religion, through its methods and theories, over the 20th century up to the present. The paper will also assess the work of these theoretical and methodological approaches as they influence our understanding of contemporary religious developments in the modern world.'

2 p. 605, ll.39-43, delete 'The earliest... Theravadin tradition', and substitute 'The paper will require that students investigate the fundamental aspects of Buddhist thought, mainly as reflected by early Buddhist teaching. It will also explore the ways in which Buddhism has changed during the course of its history, adapting to diverse cultural contexts in the pre-modern and modern world.'

3 p. 605, l.45 - p. 606, l3, delete 'For this paperTheology and Religion', and substitute 'For this paper, students may study any aspect of Christian life or thought at any

period of the Common Era and in any part of the world. Christianity is here understood to encompass groups and systems that are commonly deemed heterodox or heretical, together with those that are commonly regarded as offshoots of Christianity (e.g. Manichees, Latter-Day Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses). Topics may be historical, sociological or theological, but students taking theological texts as their principal subject are strongly encouraged to take account of the historical and social background.'

4 p.606, ll.5-17, delete 'The paper...Modern Islam', and substitute 'The paper is a broad investigation of the historical origins and development of the theology, law and mysticism of Islam, from the classical to the modern period. Specific topics will be established in consultation with students; possible subjects include: Prophethood of Muhammad; the Qur'an; the Hadith; Shi'ism; the theologies of the Mu'tazilis, Ash'aris, and Hanbalis; Islamic law (*shari'a*) and the Sunni schools of the Hanafis, Malikis, Shafi'is, and Hanbalis; Sufism (*tasawwuf*) and the major Sufi orders; Islam and other religions.'

Explanatory Notes

(i) The syllabus has been updated but the change was not hitherto published.

(ii) Students with vested interests have provided written permission of their agreement to be examined under this syllabus (already included in the course handbook).

(iii) There are no resource implications.