<div align="center">

Course Title: Religious Communication

Course Code

</div>

Course Description:

This course explores the dynamics of religious communication, focusing on the impact of new communication technologies on religion within cultural contexts. It delves into key themes and moments in the history of religious communication, studying the principal genres such as rituals, prayers, sermons, revivals, apologetics, and polemics. Additionally, it examines the adaptation and transformation of these genres in new media platforms. The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the cultural, technological, and communicative practices that have shaped religious communication throughout history. It encourages students to become informed consumers and critics of religious media and content, including those appearing in secular media coverage and popular culture. The course's purpose is to develop students' skills in writing and critical analysis, enabling them to effectively articulate and evaluate ideas, arguments, and analysis related to religious communication. The course adopts a pluralistic perspective, wherein no faith or belief system holds a privileged position, fostering an inclusive and respectful environment.

Course Objectives:

1. To examine key themes and moments in the history of religious communication, with a particular focus on understanding the impact of new communication technologies on religion within cultural contexts.
2. To study and analyze the principal genres of religious communication, including rituals, prayers, sermons, revivals, apologetics, and polemics, and explore how these generic forms have adapted and transformed in new media platforms.
3. To provide students with an understanding of the cultural, technological, and communicative practices that have shaped religious communication throughout history, highlighting their significance and implications.
4. To equip students with the skills to become informed consumers and critics of religious media, as well as religious content appearing in secular media coverage and popular culture, fostering critical thinking and discernment.
5. To develop students' skills in writing and critical analysis, enabling them to effectively articulate and evaluate ideas, arguments, and analysis related to religious communication.
6. To empower students to apply the knowledge gained in the course to enhance the effectiveness of their own religious messages outside the classroom, while respecting the diverse perspectives and beliefs of others.
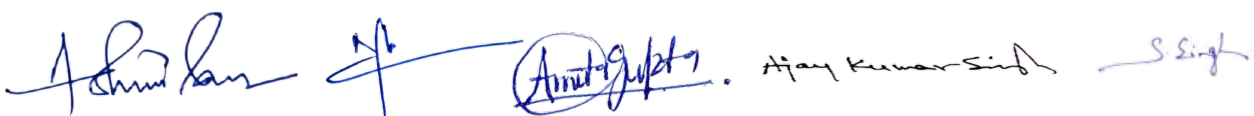
Learning Outcomes:

LO1: Analyze the impact of new communication technologies on religion in its cultural contexts, understanding the historical development and key moments in religious communication.
LO2: Examine the principle genres of religious communication, including rituals, prayers, sermons, revivals, apologetics, and polemics, and analyze their adaptation and transformation in new media platforms.
LO3: Understand the cultural, technological, and communicative practices that have shaped religious communication, including the role of oral speech, writing, printing, broadcast media, and the Internet.
LO4: Develop the skills to critically analyze and evaluate religious media and content appearing in secular media coverage and popular culture, becoming informed consumers and critics of religious communication.

LO5: Enhance writing and critical analysis skills, demonstrating competence, understanding, and creativity in employing and applying religious communication concepts and methods.

LO6: Communicate ideas and analysis effectively through articulate and well-written forms, including the presentation of arguments and the proper use of grammar, syntax, spelling, citation, and bibliographic references.

1. **Stages of development in human communication**
   1.1 forms and practices of religion in various stages of cultural evolution
   1.2 oral speech to the invention of writing to printing
   1.3 broadcast media, and the Internet

2. **Art of Religious discourse**
   2.1. Art of Hindu religious discourse
   2.2. Art of Buddhist and Jain Religious Discourse
   2.3. Art of Christian Religious discourse

3. **Religion in the Age of Mass Media**
   3.1 History of religious broadcasting
   3.2 Social and economic aspects of the religious media industry
   3.3 Religious broadcasting as preaching and ritual enactment and Use of other communications media (periodicals and direct mail)

4. **Problems of Religion in pluralistic Society**
   4.1 Rhetorical situation of religious advocates in the modern age
   4.2 Negotations over the limits of religious expression in public culture
   4.3 Political uses of religious imagery

5. **Transformation of religious discourse and religious practices in new media**
   5.1 Communication and the Transformations of Religious Identity
   5.2 Future of Electronic Religion: The Spirituality of Cyborgs
   5.3 Religion and Spirituality in the Technological Millennium

Suggested readings :

1. Carey, J. (1992). Communication as culture: Essays on media and society. Routledge.
2. Hoover, S. M. (2006). Religion in the media age. Routledge.
3. Hjarvard, S. (2008). The mediatization of religion: A theory of the media as agents of religious change. Northern Lights, 6(1), 9-26.
4. Kyriakakis, C. (2014). Media, religion and conflict. Palgrave Macmillan.
5. Marshall McLuhan, The Medium and the Light, Stoddardt Publishing.
6. Media, Religion and Culture: An Introduction, Jeffrey H. Mahan. New York: Routledge, 2014.
7. Meyer, B. (2015). Mediation and immediacy: Sensational forms, semiotic ideologies, and the question of the medium. Social Analysis, 59(1), 23-41.
8. Plate, S. B. (2003). Representing religion in world cinema: Filmmaking, mythmaking, culture making. Palgrave Macmillan.
9. Peter Berger, The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion, Anchor-Doubleday.
10. Price, J. (2018). Religion in the age of social media: Overcoming the binary. Routledge.
11. Schultze, Q. J. (2000). Habits of the high-tech heart: Living virtuously in the information age. Baker Academic.
12. Richard Cimino & Don Lattin, Shopping for Faith: American Religion in the New Millennium, Jossey-Bass.
13. Stavrakakis, Y. (2013). The Lacanian Left: Psychoanalysis, theory, politics. Edinburgh University Press.
14. Van den Hoonaard, W. C. (Ed.). (2005). The ethics of social research: Surveys and experiments. University of Toronto Press.
15. Walter Ong, Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word, 2nd edition, Routledge, ISBN # 978-0415281294.