

Sources

There are two main textbooks for the module:

Chryssides, G.D. & R. Geaves (2007) *The Study of Religion: An Introduction to Key Ideas and Methods*. London, T&T Clark.

Hinnells, J. R. (ed.) (2005) *The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion*. London, Routledge.

[The second book is available online through Lampeter's library website, using your ATHENS password. Off campus, search the catalogue for the book, click the 'Electronic Text' version, then 'Linked Resources' to be redirected to the sign-in page.]

The book by Chryssides and Geaves is a general introduction to the field of Religious Studies. Its structure, organisation and general accessibility facilitates reading from beginning to end, and it will introduce you to the basics of the field. Hinnells (2005) is a collection of articles by different authors on a variety of subjects in greater depth, which do not need to be read in the order presented. It is divided into two Parts: one which focuses on the various theoretical and methodological approaches to Religious Studies; and another which explores particular issues and how they are addressed by the approaches discussed in Part 1. McCutcheon's online guide (*Studying Religion*) is an extremely valuable and relevant website covering many of the areas of this module. In addition to introducing the key issues and approaches in historical and modern contexts, the site includes a useful glossary of terms, and thirty-five short biographies of key Religious Studies figures along with summaries of their contributions to the field.

Another valuable resource is:

Jones, L. (ed.) (2005) *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. New York, Gale Macmillan.

Its fifteen volumes contain articles on virtually every subject, approach, and term discussed in this module, together with extensive bibliographies.

The following more advanced books are important in helping you to engage with the module on a deeper level, providing further perspectives on particular approaches and exploring the issues in greater depth. Understanding and evaluating sources of this level is essential to the successful completion of the module:

Beal, T. & W. Deal (2004) *Theory for Religious Studies*. London, Routledge.

Braun, W. & R. T. McCutcheon (2000) *Guide to the Study of Religion*. London, Continuum.

Clayton, P. (ed.) (2006) *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science*. Oxford University Press.

Connelly, P. (ed.) (1998) *Approaches to the Study of Religion*. London, Cassell.

Geertz, A. & R.T. McCutcheon (2000) *Perspectives on Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. Leiden, Brill.

Stone, J. (2000) *The Craft of Religious Studies*. Palgrave Macmillan

Taylor, M, (ed.) (1998) *Critical Terms for Religious Studies*. Chicago University Press.

These anthologies comprise a comprehensive survey of the field, beginning with Waardenburg and ending with Antes et. al. The latter is particularly valuable in understanding current thinking on each issue, and should be consulted especially for your second essay:

Antes, P., A. Geertz, & R. Warne (eds.) (2004) *New Approaches to the Study of Religion*, 2 vols. Berlin, De Gruyter.
The first volume covers 'Regional, Critical, and Historical Approaches'; and the second volume 'Textual, Comparative, Sociological, and Cognitive Approaches'.

Waardenburg, J. (ed.) (1973) *Classical Approaches to the Study of Religion*:

Aims, Methods, and Theories of Research: An Introduction and Anthology. Berlin, De Gruyter.

Whaling, F. (ed.) (1995) *Theory & Methods in Religious Studies: Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion.* Berlin, De Gruyter.

You should also be aware that there is a quarterly journal devoted entirely to method and theory in the study of religions, appropriately called *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. Other journals with relevant articles include *Religion*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Numen*, *Religious Studies*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (all available in Lampeter's library) and the online *Journal of the British Association for the Study of Religions: DISKUS* (<http://www.basr.ac.uk/diskus/>). It is a good idea to check the latest issues of these journals for articles which may be relevant to your essays.

Finally, the following offers practical information to those planning to continue on to doctoral research, or pursue a career in the field:

Courville, M. (ed.) (2007) *The Next Step in Studying Religion: A Graduate's Guide.* London, Continuum.