OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

The course is designed in view of the increasing significance of sociology of religion in India. The trajectory of the development of the discipline with its anthropological and sociological roots, modern and contemporary debates, case studies on some religious communities in India etc. constitute the core of this paper.

UNIT I  Basic concepts: sacred and profane; magic, religion and science; religion and morality; asceticism; secularization; sects and cults; religious organizations and religious specialists

UNIT II  Theoretical Perspectives on Sociology of Religion

Classical Theories of Religion: Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Karl Marx, Malinowski, Radcliff Brown and Levi-Strauss

Extension of Classical Theories: Peter Berger and Bryan S Turner; Religion and Post-modernism: Ernest Gelner and Talal Asad; Post-secularization

UNIT III  Some Case Studies on Sociology of Religion in India

Tribal Religion; T.N Madan: Religion in India- Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism and Christianity; L.P Vidhyarthi: Sacred Complex ; Imtiaz Ahmed: Muslim societies in India

UNIT IV  Contemporary Debates on Religion and Polity in India

Reformism, revivalism; Secularism and Communalism; Religious Conversions and Polity; Religion and ethnicity; Civil religion

Essential Readings:

Ahmed Imtiaz ed. 1981. Ritual and Religion among Muslims in India, New Delhi: Manohar,


**Further Reading:**


Brown Radcliffe 1909. 'The Religion of the Andaman Islanders’ *Folklore* Vol 20: No: 3 September


Madan TN, 1997. *Modern Myths and Locked Minds: Secularism and Fundamentalism in India,* New Delhi, Oxford University Press,


