

CERTIFICATE IN PEACE & INTERFAITH STUDIES –SH100

1. Objectives

This course lays the academic and practical foundation for an inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue for a better understanding of the different religions that constitute the Mauritian plural society. In addition, the course provides the very bases to promoting national cohesion and a more harmonious society. At the end of the course, participants are expected to have a much better understanding of the different religions that co-exist in the local context. The significant practical components in-built in the programme characterised by study visits will further strengthen this knowledge.

2. General Entry Requirements

As per General Entry Requirements for Admission to the University for Certificates:

- (i) A School Certificate with credit in two appropriate subjects or equivalent.
OR
- (ii) Qualifications awarded by other universities and institutions, which have been approved by the Senate as satisfying the minimum requirements for admission.
OR
- (iii) The IGCSE awarded by the International Baccalaureate Organisation, Switzerland.

3. Programme Requirements

An understanding of English and French.

Candidates having relevant experience e.g. religious leaders who lack General Entry Requirements will be considered as Mature Candidate or under Special Case Regulations.

4. Programme Duration

	Normal (Years)	Maximum Years)
--	-----------------------	-----------------------

Certificate (Part-Time)	2	3
-------------------------	---	---

Taught modules will also be on offer as 'Stand Alone' and Audit Modules.

5. Minimum Credits Required for Award of Certificate: 30

Breakdown as follows:

Credits from		
Core Taught Modules	Site Visits & Cultural Exchange	Project
18	6	6

6. Assessment

Each module will be assessed over 100 marks (i.e. expressed as %) with details as follows:

- Assessment will be based on a Written Examination of 2-hour duration and Continuous Assessment carrying 50% of total marks and should include at least two (2) assignments/ class tests per module.
- Study visits will be based on continuous assessment only.
- There is no assessment for those students who are auditing the programme.

7. Submission Deadline for Project

Last working day of August.

8. List of Modules

CORE MODULES

<u>Code</u>	<u>Module</u>	<u>Hrs/Wk</u> <u>L+P</u>	<u>Credits</u>
<u>Year 1</u>			
UCORC 1001Y(1)	INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIONS OF MAURITIUS & THE REGION	90	6
UCORC 1002Y(1)	LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION SKILLS	90	6
UCORC 1003Y(1)	STUDY VISITS 1	45	3
<u>Year 2</u>			
UCORC 2001Y(1)	PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION	90	6
UCORC 2002Y(1)	STUDY VISITS 2	45	3
UCORC 2003Y(1)	PROJECT	-	6

Total number of credits: 30

9. Outline Syllabus

UCORC 1001Y(1) INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIONS OF MAURITIUS & THE REGION (6 Credits)

(Module may be taught in English or in French as deemed appropriate)

Aims

The course aims at providing a general awareness of major religions in the multicultural setting of Mauritius by exposing participants to a variety of issues in religious studies. In so doing, it attempts to highlight common themes and concerns that underlie various religious traditions, thereby helping in fostering inter-religious understanding and tolerance. A second aim is to equip learners with the basic analytical tools that will enable them to develop a critical appreciation of religion and to inquire into the formation of fundamentalist sentiments. Special emphasis will be put onto the participant's own religion and values.

Module Description

This is an introductory course to the study of five main institutional religions in Mauritius, namely: Baha'i faith, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. It briefly explores the main historical, theological, ritual and legal teachings of each of the above faith and offers a wide exposure to religions that have huge influence in world affairs. It also focuses on the specificity of the Mauritian religious landscape and briefly surveys the development of local and popular religious trends. Finally, it introduces the concept of religious pluralism and analyses the development of interfaith dialogue in Mauritius. References may also be made to other existing religions of the region.

Syllabus

Theories, concepts and methods in the study of world religions; The arrival and development of religions in Mauritius (from 18th to 20th centuries); Social engagement: The establishment of religious communities and organisations; The role of religions in Mauritian politics; Brief biography of the main religious figures; Theology: the concepts of God and salvation; Fundamentals of faith; The development of schisms and sects; Main rites of religious practices; Rituals pertaining to birth, death and marriage in popular religiosity; Major religious festivals and their social importance; Religious law (with reference to diet, marriage and crimes); Religious scriptures: The revelation and compilation of religious texts; Exegesis and interpretations; Relationship with other religious texts; Religious pluralism: Meaning and origins; Major proponents and opponents; Vatican II, other religions and interfaith dialogue; the development of interfaith dialogue in Mauritius; The role of the Council of Religions; Challenges and prospects to interfaith encounters.

UCORC 2001Y(1) PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (6 credits)

Aims

The main aim of the module is to develop an understanding of the historical evolution and the theoretical perspectives of peace and the use of different instruments to resolve conflicts. This module will also analyse the role of the international and local organisations in peace building activities. It aims at developing the analytical potential of the learner to relate the theoretical approaches of peace and ethnicity.

Module Description

The duration of this module is 90 hours and carries 6 credits.

This module seeks to expose students/ learners to the concept of peace, ethnicity and conflict resolution. It gives a general introduction of the concept of peace and focusing on the historical, theoretical and practical aspects of peace. It also analyses the key concepts in race relations and the theoretical approaches to ethnicity. Since the Mauritian society is characterised by a number of ethnic groups, Mauritius will be used as a case study and the student/ learner will be expected to carry out some field visits. Finally, it explores the different tools or instruments to resolve conflicts and in addressing peace in a local and global context.

Syllabus

General Notion of Peace; History and Evolution of Peace; Identification of Constraints to Peace; Theoretical and Practical Aspects; Conflict Resolution from an International Perspective; Gender and peace building; The Role of International institutions and Local Organisations in Peace-building Activities; Non-violence and New Methods to Address Peace in a Global and Local Context; Case Studies.

General introduction to key concepts in race relations and ethnicity, impact on young people causes and consequences of ethnic conflict (including psychological needs, meritocracy and positive discrimination), colonialism and racism, theoretical approaches to ethnicity in Mauritius, problematic of multicultural societies, politics of recognition and identity politics; various sources of conflicts. Governance/ethics of leadership. Peace and social cohesion and the different tools/instruments to resolve conflicts and bring peace such as negotiation, dialogue and citizenship education.

UCORC 1002Y(1) LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION SKILLS (6 credits)

Aims

The aims of these language sessions will be to initiate learners to develop their communicative competencies in Creole, French and English and to give creative expression to their ideas in inter-religious dialogue and with due reference to cultural differences.

Module Description

Particular emphasis will be laid to a critical understanding and effective production of analytical, oral and written work, culminating into the successful elaboration and submission of a written project. In addition, learners will be encouraged to explore the syntactic and lexical dimensions of linguistic usage, leading to an enhanced communicative competence in line with the objectives set for this module. Learners will be introduced to basic IT skills.

Syllabus

An introduction to parts of speech of each language; learning to write and speak in a range of sentences from the simple to the complex and finally the complex compound; Acquisition of relevant vocabulary; an introduction to basic writing skills leading to more critical and evaluative texts; introduction to oratory skills including public speaking and rhetorical discourse; particular emphasis will be paid to inter-cultural communicative skills; aspects of cultural tourism; researching topics on the internet; formatting word documents; writing up blogs; launching of on-line forums about inter-religious debates; introduction to web design and other such interactive e-learning platforms; cultural tourism.

STUDY VISITS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Aims

These will enhance the knowledge of participants in terms of learning more about the religions of others and their values. They will use an academic approach to make a synthesis of their experiences in inter-faith and inter-religious contexts. Those visits will also enable learners to appreciate the practical relevance of the theoretical material.

Module Description

Study visits are proposed, to places of worships, religious centers and sites and on the occasion of religious festivals.

UCORC 1003Y(1) STUDY VISITS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE 1 (100% Continuous assessment) (3 credits)

Syllabus

Visits to places of worship, such as, Temple, Mosque, Church, Pagoda and Cultural Centres, discussion with the religious leaders, acquaintance with religious texts. Students will be required to submit a portfolio.

UCORC 2001Y(1) STUDY VISITS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE 2 (100% Continuous assessment) (3 credits)

Syllabus

Sharing everyday-life experiences of families from different faiths. Students will be required to submit a portfolio.

UCORC 2003Y(1) PROJECT (6 credits)

Group Project (3 students from different religions) will be encouraged.

Syllabus

It is intended that students choose from a real-life topic in the context of Mauritius. In doing so, they will have to define the aims and objectives, write a literature review and where appropriate perform interviews. Discussions and conclusions are important and the project should be adequately referenced. The project will ensure that students can extract information from primary source material including the Internet, will test their ability to select data and synthesize it into a coherent logical argument. The project should be around 4000 words.