B.A. Degree Course in
CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Non-Semester
(Effective from the Academic Year 2005 - 2006)

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
CHENNAI - 600 005
## B.A. CHRISTIAN STUDIES
### SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

#### FIRST YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Duration Hours</th>
<th>Max. Marks</th>
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<td><strong>Core Courses - Main Subjects</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Christianity: An Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>II</td>
<td>History of Christianity</td>
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<td><strong>Core Course - Allied Subject</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Religion of India</td>
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#### SECOND YEAR

|       | **Core Courses - Main Subjects**       |                |            |
| III   | The Holy Bible : Old Testament         | 3              | 100        |
| IV    | Christian Beliefs                      | 3              | 100        |
|       | **Core Course - Allied Subject**       |                |            |
| II    | South Indian Philosophy and Culture    | 3              | 100        |

#### THIRD YEAR

|       | **Core Courses - Main Subjects**       |                |            |
| V     | The Holy Bible : New Testament         | 3              | 100        |
| VI    | Christian Practices                    | 3              | 100        |
| VII   | Christian Ethics                       | 3              | 100        |
| VIII  | Christianity and Environment           | 3              | 100        |
|       | **Application Oriented Subject**       |                |            |
|       | (Any One)                               |                |            |
|       | Christian Spirituality & Art           |                |            |
|       | Women Studies                           |                |            |
|       | Counselling and Guidance               | 3              | 100        |
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
B.A. DEGREE COURSE IN
CHRISTIAN STUDIES
SYLLABUS

FIRST YEAR

PAPER I - CHRISTIANITY : AN INTRODUCTION

Unit 1 : What is Christianity?

Christianity as a religion; a brief history of the Jewish origin of Christianity. Christianity and its Organisation – the structural aspects of Christianity and its functioning.

Unit 2 : Jesus Christ and the Early Church

Beginnings of Christianity : Jesus and his mission; the Apostles and the apostolic communities.

Unit 3 : The Christian Churches

Various denominations of the Christian community, their salient features and their founders.
Unit 4 : Christianity in the World Today

Christianity in different continents today: in Europe; in South America; in North America; in Asia; in Africa; in Australia and in other parts of the world.

Unit 5 : Christianity In India

The different churches in India; Latin and Syrian rites; the Bishops' conferences; Ecumenism; Inter-religious dialogue and theology of religion; Christianity and human rights.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


5. Thekkedath, Joseph., *History of Christianity in India from the Middle of the Sixteenth to the End of the Seventeenth Century (1542-1700)*, CHAI, TPI, Bangalore, 1982.
PAPER II - HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

Unit 1: Establishment of Christian Communities

The journeys of Paul; persecution of the early Christians; martyrdom among the early believers. The Fathers of the Early Church. Ancient Thinkers: Apostle Paul; Early Fathers of the Church: Justin, Cyril of Alexandria, Tertullian, Ambrose, John Chrysostom and Augustine

Unit 2: Christianity up to the Middle Ages


Unit 3: Reformation and Counter Reformation

Renaissance and its influence on Christianity. Reformation and birth of the new ‘churches’ (esp. in England and Germany) and their contributions; Counter Reformation and the Council of Trent. Reformation Thinkers: Martin Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and others.

Unit 4: The Modern Period

Industrial revolution and French revolution and their impact on Christianity. Missionary expansion. Various missionary movements and the spread of Christianity in Asian countries.
Unit 5 : The Contemporary Era

Challenges of Secularism and Marxism on Christianity. Formation of the World Council of Churches; the Second Vatican Council of the Catholic Church; Neo-Pentecostalism, Family Churches and ecclesial communities. Contemporary Thinkers : Romano Guardini, Karl Barth, Karl Rahner, Paul Tillich and others.

Unit 6 : Christianity in India and in Tamilnadu

Origins of Christianity in India. Arrival of the Portuguese Missionaries; Jesuit Mission especially in Tamil Nadu. Francis Xavier, Robert de Nobili, John de Britto, etc. Christian presence in today’s Indian society especially in the fields of education, medical care, social transformation, etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


2. Grafe, Hugald, History of Christianity in South India during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. CHAI, TPI, Bangalore, 1992.


8. Thekkedath, Joseph, *History of Christianity in India from the Middle of the Sixteenth to the End of the Seventeenth Century (1542-1700)*, CHAI, TPI; Bangalore, 1982.

**ALLIED SUBJECT 1 - RELIGIONS OF INDIA**

**Unit 1 : Scope and Meaning of Religion**


**Unit 2 : Hinduism**

Fundamental principles of Hinduism; Role of Scriptures-Vedas, Upanisads, Six systems. Gita and teachings. Worship and Rituals. Theories of Varnasrama, Vyavastha, Karma and Moksa.
Unit 3 : Buddhism


Unit 5 : Sikkism

Emergence, sailent features and teachings of Gurunanak. Religious practices of Sikkism and influence of Sufism on Sikh religious tradition. Cardinal virtues : Truthfulness, Contentment and True Wisdom.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


SECOND YEAR

PAPER III - THE HOLY BIBLE IN GENERAL

Unit 1 : The Bible in General

The Bible as the Word of God; social, cultural, and political conditions of the Bible; Bible as source of Christian Faith; Biblical languages and important translations of Bible. Authorship and Canon of the Bible. ‘Biblical Criticism’ : Textual, historical, literary, form, redaction, structural; limitation of criticism. Biblical hermeneutics and various approaches to reading the Bible.

Unit 2 : The Geography and History of the Biblical Lands

The itinerary of the Exodus journey; Geography of Palestine; the maps of Israel at the peak moments of its history; the southern and the northern kingdoms. The processes, times and events that led to the formation of the books of the OT.

Unit 3 : Structure and Central Themes of the Old Testament

Basic structure and the different books of the Hebrew Bible. Central themes and the key-events of the Old Testament.
Unit 4 : The Historical Books and Wisdom Literatures

The OT as a book of history; the formation of the five books (Pentateuch) and historical writings. Major themes of Wisdom literatures with special reference to the Psalms.

Unit 5 : Prophetical Writings in the Old Testament

Prophecy in Israel and among the neighbouring peoples; conception and character of the prophetic ministry in the OT. Prophecy and political and social problems; a brief introduction to each prophet : major and minor prophets.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


**PAPER IV - CHRISTIAN BELIEFS**

**Unit 1: Christian Concept of God**

The meaning of Revelation, Faith and Salvation. One God and three Persons. Incarnation: Jesus Christ, His teaching, preaching and miracles; The suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the experience of these events by the followers of Jesus. Holy Spirit. Early Christian Community and Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.

**Unit 2: Christian Vision of Human Being**
Human being in the image of God as man and woman; free and co-responsible for creation; Fallibility of the human; the mystery of evil : Concept of original sin; sin: the personal and structural dimensions; Forgiveness and salvation; the dignity and task of human beings; the equal dignity of all human beings; the communitarian nature of human beings; the role of grace in human life; grace and freedom. Love – the great commandment.

Unit 3 : Christian Vision of the World

The Christian vision of Creation; World as real; Creation – all reality is good and sacred; The Christian understanding of the created world ; Christian understanding of time and space.

Unit 4 Suffering and Belief in the Life After Death

The meaning and significance of the Cross (suffering) and discipleship; The Kingdom of God as a central concern of Jesus. Christian understanding of human history and destiny; Heaven and Hell; the concept of resurrection of the body; judgement : individual and the final; the understanding of Christian Hope in its individual and collective dimensions.

Unit 5 : The Church as a Community

The meanings of the term “Church”; the household gatherings of early Christians and the emergence of the concept of Church; Biblical bases for the understanding of
Church; a hierarchical relationship in the Church as understood in history; the contemporary understanding: as a community of people of God.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


ALLIED SUBJECT II - SOUTH INDIAN PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURE

Unit 1 : Religions and Philosophy

Saivism, Vaisnavism, Cult of Murugan and Sakti. Bakti Movements and Vira Saivism

Unit 2 : Temple Study

Important Temples in South India and their history and features. Temple Arts and Worship. Importance of temple in the society.

Unit 3 : Art and Architecture

Tamil Temple Music and composers : Dikshitar, Sastri, Thyagaraja and Annamacharya Vachana. A brief sketch of Bharatham and other dance forms of South India.

Unit 4 : Literary Traditions

Salient literary contributions of South India

Unit 5 : Social Movements

Vallalar, Bharathi, EVR, Purantharadhasa, Sri Narayanaguru and others.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Neelakanta Sastri, Development of Religions in South India, CLS, Chennai.

2. Basham, A.L., The Wonder that was India.
PAPER V - THE HOLY BIBLE : THE NEW TESTAMENT

Unit 1 : Formation of the New Testament


Unit 2 : The Synoptic Gospels

Background to the Synoptic gospels : Matthew, Mark, Luke. The main themes : Kingdom of God, Discipleship, the healing miracles, exorcisms; Jesus’ passion and death : Important texts in each of the synoptic gospels and their significance

Unit 3 : The Teachings and Miracles of Jesus

Parables : Parable of the Good Samaritan; of the Prodigal Son; of the Sower and the Seeds; of the Fig Tree; of the poor Lazarus; etc. The Sermon on the Mount; the audience; the text : its structure and content. The significance of the miracles of Jesus.
Unit 4 : The Writings of John

Background; Key themes in Johannine theology. John’s description of Jesus’ encounters with a few remarkable persons. The Book of Revelation; its basic message; some difficult texts and their interpretation.

Unit 5 : Paul and his Epistles

The Call of Paul; his journeys for the cause of Jesus Christ; his letters; the specific message and important themes of his letters : sin and grace; sin and redemption; Holy Spirit; faith; love; service and surrender.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


PAPER VI - CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

Unit 1 : Christian Worship

Christian worship: An overview of its history; Important liturgies & Sunday worship. Worship forms in different Christian Churches. Liturgical seasons: Advent, Lent, Paschal, etc.

Unit 2 : Sacraments and Sacramentals

Major sacraments: their origin, function and important devotions especially to Mary and veneration of saints; Religious practice especially pilgrimage as an expression of popular devotion.

Unit 3 : Religious Freedom and Christianity

Christianity and Evangelisation; conversion (metanoia) as transformation from self-centredness to love. The issue of conversion. Conversion Movements in the past; individual and collective conversions; Religious freedom in the Indian constitution.

Unit 4 : Christianity and Social Involvement.

Christianity’s encounter with the realities of Indian society especially exploitation and corruption: caste, gender, environmental disparities; the response of the missionaries to caste – some examples; the reality of caste in Christianity; Caste and the issue of reservation.
Unit 5: Christian Contribution to Education and Medical Care

Diaconia – Christian understanding of love of neighbour and service to the poor. Education as an integral aspect of Christian ministry. Medical care and service to the poorest of the poor.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


**PAPER VII - CHRISTIAN ETHICS**

Unit 1 : The Basis of Christian Ethics

The life and teaching of Christ as central to evolving Christian Ethics; The sacredness of the person and the focus of community (Kingdom-community) at the heart of Jesus’ message and mission; The teaching of the churches on social issues: dignity of the person, freedom, fundamental option, sin-salvation, equality, democracy, just wage, freedom of association, capitalism-socialism, ownership and private property, etc.
Unit 2 : Justice as an Important Element of Christian Ethics


Unit 3 : Christian Ethics on Violence, War and Peace

Christian teaching on violence and war; on *ahimsa* and peace. Movements for Peace and Non-violence – Christian involvement and initiatives.

Unit 4 : Christianity and Human Rights

The documents of regional and local bishops’ conferences like, WCC, CELAM, SECAM, FABC, on various topics relating to human rights and justice issues.

Unit 5 : Some Medical Ethical Questions

Family; responsible parenthood; use of contraceptives; abortion; bio-ethics (IVF, cloning, etc.), euthanasia.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


**PAPER VIII - CHRISTIANITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Unit 1 : Christianity in the Context of the Destroyed Creation**

Destruction of creation and injustice to the nature. Violence and exploitation of the resources. Responsibility of the churches.

**Unit 2 : Divine Nature of Creation in the Bible**

Creation of the universe. Biblical narratives on creation of the universe and its significance for Christians.

**Unit 3 : Creation and Incarnation**

Creation liberated through Christ. The task and responsibility of the Christian toward creation
Unit 4: Social Teachings of the Churches on Environment

From the encyclicals of the popes and the documents of the WCC and the statements of various Churches and regional bodies.

Unit 5: Initiatives for Environmental Protection

Christian and secular movements and initiatives for protecting the nature.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPLICATION ORIENTED SUBJECT - CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY & ART

Unit 1: Christian Spirituality & Art

The Community of the Acts; the Desert Fathers and Mothers; organized Monastic life and its contribution to spirituality and culture; the Mendicant Orders (Franciscans and Dominicans);

Bible-based devotional life taught by the Reformers; the active mysticism of St. Teresa of Avila; St. Ignatius of Loyola, the optimistic spirituality of St. Francis Sales; Three Influential Books *(The Imitation of Christ, The Cloud of Unknowing, the Practice of the Presence of God)*. Christian understanding of prayer; The “Our Father” as the basic prayer; its meaning; Prayer in the daily life of Christians; personal and community prayers; the emergence of charismatic prayers.

Unit 2 : Biblical Spirituality

The world as created by God, and hence good; human beings as God’s image and covenant partners; God’s tender, personal love for each one; Prophets – the challenge of justice; Job – the suffering of the innocent; The song of the songs – God as lover and beloved; Jesus, the compassion of God made visible – forgiving love and service of the least as the
best expressions of spirituality; Jesus’ teaching on life, sin, etc; Life in the Spirit – moving from fear to love, a sharing community, the role of laws, the new law is the Holy spirit.

Unit 3 : Contemporary Approaches, Movements and Spiritual Masters

The cost of discipleship (life and vision of Dietrich Bonhoeffer); matter, science and mysticism (Teilhard de Chardin); spirituality, justice and creativity (Merton); Spirituality of liberation and the voices of solidarity and justice (Camera, Romero, Day); Feminist spirituality; Pentecostal and charismatic spirituality; Indian Christian Spirituality; Youth Spirituality; Ecology and related movements; Spiritual Renewal movements (marriage encounter, Cursillo, etc.)

Unit 4 : Christian Spirituality : Indian Contributions

The experience and contribution of Upadhyaya, Sadhu Sunder Singh and Pandita Ramabhai; Christianity and the advaitic experience (Abhishiktananda, Bede Griffiths); Spirituality, psychology and eastern wisdom (Anthony De Mello); Mother Teresa’s spirituality : serving Jesus in the distressing guise of the poor.

Unit 5 : Christianity and Art

The nature of Christian symbolism; Christian artifacts: pictures, icons and statues; the altars; Christian art in India.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPLICATION ORIENTED SUBJECT -
WOMEN STUDIES

Unit - 1

Introduction : (a) Meaning and Scope; (b) Relevance.

Unit - 2

A Historical Study of the problems of Women in Indian Society.

Unit - 3

The Concept of Indian Womenhood : (a) The image of Indian Womenhood from Vedic period onwards. (b) The status of women during the Renaissance period.

Unit - 4

Emergence of feminist movements in India.

Unit - 5


BOOKS FOR STUDY


**APPLICATION ORIENTED SUBJECT - COUNSELLING & GUIDANCE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Unit - 1**

1. What is counselling? Conceptual clarification of related terms;
   
   (a) Guidance & Counselling; (b) Advise & Counselling; (c) Direction & Counselling; (d) Instruction & Counselling; (e) Education & Counselling.

2. The effective counsellor – Characteristics & Attitudes necessary for effective counselling.


4. Group Counselling & Guidance – Aims, Its appeal, Types of groups.

**Unit - 2**

Counselling Interview – (a) Nature & Significant features; (b) Setting & Type of counselling interviews; (c) Organisation & Development; (d) Some Guidelines.
Unit - 3

Tools & techniques used in counseling & Guidance:
(a) Testing & Non-testing devices; (b) Tools & techniques for environmental information; (c) Tools used in assisting individuals towards self discovery; (d) Some Guidelines.

Unit - 4

Organising Guidance programmes in our schools & colleges – Problems which will have to be encountered – Role of Principal, Teachers & Community Resources; Types of programmes which can be organised in Schools and Colleges.

Unit - 5

Special Areas in counselling – Marital Counselling, Family Counselling, Counselling Women, Counselling through development.

REFERENCES


