Are you ready for **Studies of Religion 3**?

**STUDIES OF RELIGION 3**
Size: 15 points

Students who select Studies of Religion 3 will study the beliefs of at least one religious tradition in detail, the core elements that are common to many religious beliefs as well as investigate the impact of religious traditions globally and on Australia as a pluralist society.

Students will research and investigate the traditions, ethical perspectives and world-views of religious traditions and their impact on contemporary ethical issues. The Studies of Religion course addresses the significant challenges and ultimate questions that religious traditions have faced in the past and are still commending with in the contemporary world. Learners may analyse these contentious challenges and questions from both theist and non-theist perspectives. Learners will also investigate how religious traditions impact on groups and individuals in society, how this interaction can broaden perspectives and how social, political and cultural factors impact on religious traditions in historical and contemporary society.

Throughout the history of human civilisation, religious traditions have engaged with questions of meaning: what does it mean to be human? Can we explain the existence of suffering? What is truth? Is there really a God? Are reason and faith compatible? How does the past condition our thinking?

The course encourages debate and reasoned thinking, as well as self-directed research. Students enjoy the opportunity to explore and value a number of perspectives from outside their immediate experience. Critiquing and evaluating the presentation of ideas to build an argument is an essential life skill developed in this course. Students grow in their appreciation of the major religious traditions studied in the program and have the opportunity to gain a thorough understanding of the teachings, stories, expressions and culture of these religious traditions.

**Pathways:** Studies of Religion 3 provides a pathway to Philosophy 2, the University of Tasmania’s Philosophy 2 High Achievers’ Program (HAP) as well as further university studies in religion, philosophy, ethics, Asian studies, education, law, journalism, health sciences and social work.

Studies of Religion has vocational links and/or future employment in Asian studies, philosophy, teaching, journalism, medicine, nursing, veterinary science, physiotherapy, social work, government positions, legal professions and court administration.
EIGHT ASPECTS OF RELIGION RESEARCH TASK

1. Select a religion to research that is not one of the major religious traditions globally.
   (Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism or Judaism)

2. Research your selected religion.

3. Using the eight aspects of religion we have identified in class and as labelled and described in the VCE Religion and Society text pages 32-37 try to identify the eight aspects in relation to the religion you have selected.

4. Create a power point with visual images and brief dot points that identify each of the eight aspects as they can be applied to your selected religion.

   Recognizing that each aspect is in fact interdependent – beliefs, myths and other stories, sacred texts (formal creeds), rituals, symbols, social structures, ethical principles and oral or written codes of behaviour and religious experience and spirituality. Please note not all religions will have written texts.

5. There will be two sessions on which to work on this in class, the third session will be for presentation of your information.