

Why study Paganism?

Ever fancied studying something a little different? Well Paganism is certainly different! Paganism is a type of belief – religion almost – and in the broadest sense this belief includes all religions other than the true one revealed by God, and in a narrower sense, all except Christianity, Judaism and Mohammedanism.

It is difficult to find an educational course that purely focuses on Paganism. Instead, if you want to know more about Paganism you would be better advised to look for an educational course that includes Paganism within its course modules. 'Religious Studies' for example at some universities includes modules on Paganism. Alternatively, if you are looking to pursue a study course that isn't necessarily run through a University setting, you will find that there are study courses that focus on Witchcraft, and paganism often falls within these courses.

So why consider pursuing a course that has a slightly different twist to religious studies?

Well whether we like to acknowledge it or not, Religion does play a major part in people's lives, and it has done for thousands of years. It has shaped the world's history, literature, art, culture, politics, ethics, and economics. Across the globe religious agendas have fuelled conflict and encouraged acts of terrorism and ethnic cleansing, dislocating populations and destroying economies. Religion has consequently proven to be one of the greatest threats to world peace and prosperity. But religious traditions have also laid the foundation for human rights, social justice, toleration, and world peace. Studying Religion therefore helps us understand how the world works, and enables us to form informed opinions on everything from current affairs to art and music. Studying Paganism within a religious studies course allows you to understand how historical religious thinkings have helped shape the way that individuals operate today, and to understand why they hold certain beliefs, cultures and practices.

Undertaking a course in religious studies enables you to develop a range of transferrable skills, and skills that you might not be able to develop in such a strong way through studying other University courses. The greatest and most enhanced transferrable skill sets you'll strengthen through studying Religion are critical thinking, writing, and reading skills. These skills are essential in any industry and so students who complete a course in Religious Studies are well prepared to enter a variety of careers, including the health professions, law, business, government, and teaching. Having strong critical thinking, writing and reading skills is also crucial to success at Postgraduate level, and thus lots of Religious Studies students go on to continue their education through further education courses, either on site at a University or via a distance learning course.

In an increasingly global society University graduates cannot know where their life and careers may take them. But wherever students end up, knowledge of the religious traditions of the people with whom they interact is essential. Religion is a potent force in today's culture, and even though we may not always agree with the way that certain groups of individuals act, an understanding of why they act in a certain way can make a huge difference to the relationships you form in your future life.