

Nature of Religion and Beliefs

16 indicative hours

The focus of this study is the nature of religion and beliefs, including Australian Aboriginal beliefs and spiritualities, as a distinctive response to the human search for meaning in life.

This study introduces students to the essential concepts of Studies of Religion. It provides an understanding of the nature of religion and the expression of religious thought and practice in various belief systems. In this part of the course, the religious traditions illustrate the variety of beliefs about the relationship between the supernatural and the human, the search for meaning and the ultimate goal of human life. Students also investigate the unique expression of spirituality by Aboriginal peoples. These responses all demonstrate a relationship between beliefs and their adherents

Protocols when working with Aboriginal communities

In the topic *Nature of Religion and Beliefs* a significant area of study is Aboriginal beliefs and spiritualities. Where possible, schools are encouraged to work with local/regional Aboriginal communities for this section of the course. See page 12 for information about protocols when working with Aboriginal communities.

Outcomes

A student:

- P1** describes the characteristics of religion and belief systems
- P2** identifies the influence of religion and belief systems on individuals and society
- P6** selects and uses relevant information about religion from a variety of sources
- P8** uses appropriate terminology related to religion and belief systems.

Content

Students learn about:	Students learn to:
<p>The Nature of Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • religion as a worldview that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – acknowledges the supernatural dimension – has a belief in a divine being or powers beyond the human and/or dwelling within the individual • characteristics of religion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – beliefs and believers – sacred texts and writings – ethics – rituals and ceremonies • the contribution of religion <p>Australian Aboriginal Beliefs and Spiritualities – The Dreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature of the Dreaming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the inextricable connection of the Dreaming, the land and identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define the supernatural dimension • discuss a transcendent religious worldview which has a belief in a divine power and/or powers beyond the human • discuss an immanent religious worldview which has a belief in a divine being or powers dwelling within the individual • define the characteristics of religion • explore the ways in which these characteristics interact to create a dynamic, living religion • appreciate the contribution of religion to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – individuals – society and culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outline the nature of the Dreaming in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – origins of the universe – sacred sites – stories of the Dreaming – symbolism and art • discuss the diversity of the Dreaming for Aboriginal peoples • recognise the importance of the Dreaming for the life of Aboriginal peoples • investigate the inextricable connection of the Dreaming, the land and identity