**Course Description**

The course programme is divided into five units and each unit discusses a specific eastern religion from the origins to its representations and signification in Central-Eastern Europe today. The course lasts two weeks, from Monday to Friday with morning lectures (9.00-12.00), afternoon seminars (14.00-15.30) and other programs in the evening and at the weekends. The latter programs include presentations with slide-shows and video films, visiting religious communities (for example the Krishna Community), the Buddhist stupa in Tar, the Museum of  Far Eastern Arts, a workshop in the Library of the Oriental Institute of the University ELTE, etc.

*July 24, July 25*: Shamanism and Ancient Religions (Ágnes BIRTALAN, Erdeniin PÜREWJAW)   
Topics and discussion points    Ancient religions in Eurasia   
Animism, Totemism   
Shamanism   
Ancient religions - modern revival   
Ancient and "Neo-"   
New religious movements and traditional ideologies on the example of Mongolia and Hungary

*July 26, July 27*: Indian Religions (Gyula WOJTILLA, István KAMARÁS)   
Topics and discussion points    The origin of Hinduism   
The main trends in Hinduism with special regard to Vaisnavism   
Early history of the Krsna faith   
Krsna faith in eastern India (Bengal, Orissa)   
Appearance of Hinduism in the United States in the middle of sixties

*July 28, July 31:* Buddhism (Alice SÁRKÖZI, Andrej TERENTEV, Luwsanjaw CHULUUNBAATAR)   
Topics and discussion points    The origin of Hinduism   
The main trends in Hinduism with special regard to Vaisnavism   
Early history of the Krsna faith   
Krsna faith in eastern India (Bengal, Orissa)   
Appearance of Hinduism in the United States in the middle of sixties

*August 1, August 2*: Islam I. (Sándor FODOR, Avihai SHIVITEL, Zourabi ALOIANE)   
Topics and discussion points    The religious background of Islam   
Muhammad and the Koran   
Tradition   
Shari ca   
Islam and Judaism   
Popular Islam   
Mysticism   
Islam in the Balkans   
Islam in Hungary   
Monuments of Islamic Art in Hungary   
Yezidi Life in the former USSR   
Yezidi Life in Germany   
European Islam under construction   
Europe in the eyes of the Islamic world

*August 3, August 4*: Islam II. (Anvar GALIEV, Mihály DOBROVITS)   
Topics and discussion points    Traditional World-concepts of Pastoral Nomads of Central Asia   
The Arab conquest of central Asia and the spread of Islam in Central Eurasia   
The Islamisation of the Mongol Empire   
Islam in Kazakhstan, past and Present   
Semiotic approach to the Islam revival   
Islam under the Russian (Soviet rule)   
Peculiarities of Northern and Central Asian Islam   
    
**Requirements for Participation**   
Though the course does not require prior understanding of all religions offered by the summer university, it requires participants who are educated and preferably have prior teaching and/or research experience in one religious stream discussed by the course or have a special interest in other aspects of the mentioned religions (history, sociology, politics, demography, anthropology, etc.). In the interests of effective education the course demands the general knowledge of Asia's geography (including Near East, Central-Asia, Siberia, Eastern-Asia, South-Eastern Asia, etc.), and its ethnic and political division. 