A tentative list of the broad areas for concrete topics is the following:

* 1. Judaism and its neighbouring religions,
  2. Christian expansion on different continents and the resulting syntheses,
  3. The Islamic conquests and the resulting syntheses,
  4. Iran: a melting pot of traditions,
  5. Religious variety and unity in India,
  6. Minority groups on the margins of the great religions.

Some of the problems on the general level, to be examined in the above concrete contexts:

A) What does religious orthodoxy mean and how does it emerge?

B) What is the role of dogma vis-à-vis religious practices?

C) What is the exact nature of religious influence? What does borrowing from, or reinterpreting, other religions mean?

D) How is non-orthodoxy to be differentiated from another religion? What is the measure of religious difference and identity?

There will only be a few lectures, but many more discussion seminars and tutorials. Great emphasis will be laid on interactive teaching. Students are expected to come prepared with case studies and well formulated questions which will be discussed in the classes. That is, students are expected to prepare beforehand a paper on a relevant subject. During the tutorials they will discuss these papers with the resource persons. This is a necessary condition for participation and assessment. On a voluntary basis, participants are encouraged to give a short presentation on a relevant topic. On the basis of the material discussed during the summer course, a volume will be prepared, including a study by each resource person and some among the best papers presented by the participants.

**Assessment**

Assessment will be made on the basis of active oral participation in the courses, the work in the tutorials, and the quality of the paper presented.