

Religions of the World - Syllabus

REL2300, Summer 2019, June 24 - July 26

Course & Faculty Information

Lecturer: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Time: Monday through Friday

Teaching hours: 45 (1.8 contact hours each day)

Office hours: 2 hours (According to the teaching schedule)

Credit: 3

Course Description

This course is a study of the world's most popular and influential religions. Their history, basic tenets, and faith practices are examined.

Required Textbooks

Smith, Houston. *Religions of the World*. New York: HarperOne, 1991.

Additional readings will be provided in class handouts or online.

Measurable Course Objectives

Measurable Course Objectives are outcomes students are expected to achieve by the end of the course.

Have a general understanding of what religion is, how it is defined by scholars, and how it is studied.

Have an understanding of the doctrine and practice of the world's most popular religions.

Have an understanding of the historical development of the world's most popular religions.

Compile papers with appropriate composition skills.

Have the ability to empathize with religious believers and understand the concept, "religious experience"

Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes

The Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes assessed and reinforced in this course include the following:

Communication

Critical Thinking
Information Literacy
Global Socio-cultural Responsibility

Grade Scale and Evaluation Methods

Each student's final grade will be based upon the following:

Class Discussion Participation - 15%

Participate in class discussions and bring a question from the readings to every class.

Five Short Answer Quizzes - 25%

These will be on average three to five (3-5) questions based upon the assigned reading and in-class lectures, to be answered in a few sentences or a short paragraph at most.

Research Paper - 25%

One Research Paper, five to six (5-6) pages, on a religious tradition other than your own, its founding myths, and its sacred rituals. Detailed instructions will be given for this assignment in a separate handout.

Midterm Exam - 15%

Final Exam - 20%

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

Schedule/Calendar

The following reading assignments are to be completed before the class meeting for the day so as to be prepared to discuss the concepts therein during class time. The biographies at the end of each chapter should be included.

Week 1, June 24-28 - Intro to the study of religions; Ancient India; Hinduism

Monday: Course Introduction; Definitions of Religion; William James and Religious Experience

Tuesday: **Read** Smith pp. 1-11 (Point of Departure, Hinduism) Lecture: Paths to Liberation, the Gita, the Sacred and the Profane Dichotomy; Eliade pp. 1-18 (Introduction).

Wednesday: **Read:** Bhagavad-Gita excerpt (Chapter 1-2); Eliade Sacred & Profane **Read** Smith pp. 12-29, Watch: Lotan Baba; Lecture: Indian social structure

Thursday: **Read** Smith, pp. 29-72 Watch: Documentary on Vedic sacrifice - agni; Lecture: Review

Friday: **Read** Smith pp. 72-79; **In Class: Quiz 1**; Lecture: Sikhism, Buddhism

Week 2, July 1-5 – Buddhism

Monday: **Read** Smith 80-88. Read Rahula 1-15 Lecture: Hindu context, the life of the buddha, the four noble truths

Tuesday: **Read** Rahula 16-29; Smith pp. 89-103. Lecture: The noble eightfold path

Wednesday: **Read** Smith pp. 103-119. Lecture Practice of Buddhism. Watch Sand Mandala documentary; **In Class: Quiz 2**

Thursday: **Read** Smith pp. 119-145. Lecture: Review of Indian Religions

Friday: **In Class: Midterm Exam**

Week 3, July 8-12 - Judaism; Traditional religion in Asia

Monday: **Read** Smith pp. 271-293 Lecture: Judaism, meaning, sacred scriptures

Tuesday: **Read** Unterman in Holm pp. 125-149. Lecture: Jewish practice, modern history, influence. In class: Watch Judaism Documentary

Wednesday: **Read** Smith pp. 293-316 Lecture: Confucianism, Taoism, and other traditions

Thursday: **Read** Smith pp. 155-180 (Confucianism). Lecture: The Sacred and the Profane so far

Friday: **Read** Smith pp. 196-218 (Taoism) Lecture: Alexander, Romans, Judea, and the life of Christ. **In Class: Quiz 3**

Week 4, July 15-19 - Christianity

Monday: **Read** Smith pp. 317-329. Crossan pp. x-28 (Prologue, Chapter 1) Lecture: Who was Jesus?

Tuesday: **Read** Smith pp. 329-346. Lecture: Sects of Christianity. In class: Watch Communion documentaries

Wednesday: **Read** Smith pp. 346-362. Lecture: The Bible in Christianity

Thursday: **Read** Davies in Holm pp. 44-69. Lecture: Influence of Christianity on the world; Islam

Friday: **Read** Smith pp. 221-235. Lecture: Muhammad, Islamic Civilization, **In Class: Quiz 4**

Week 5, July 22-26 – Islam, Aboriginal religion, and new religious movements

Monday: **Read** Smith 235-248. Lecture: Qur'an & Basic teachings of Islam

Tuesday: **Read** Forward in Holm pp. 101-123. Lecture: Islamic society, Hajj. **Due: Research Paper**

Wednesday: **Read** Smith pp. 248-268. Watch: Inside Mecca; Lecture: "Primal" Religions. **In Class: Quiz 5**

Thursday: **Read** Smith pp. 365-382. Lecture: other religions, review

Friday: **In Class: Final Exam**

Attendance Policy

Seminole State College recognizes the correlation between attendance and both student retention and achievement. Students must be enrolled before they can attend class. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and activities for which they are registered. Any class session or activity missed, regardless of cause, reduces the opportunity of learning and may adversely affect a student's achievement in the course. Students are held responsible for material covered during their absences.

View complete policy from the college catalog at:

http://www.seminolestate.edu/catalog/studentinfo/academic_policies/attendance.htm

Academic Integrity

As members of the Seminole State College of Florida community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating of any kind on examinations, course assignments or projects, plagiarism, misrepresentation and the unauthorized possession of examinations or other course-related materials, is prohibited.

Plagiarism is unacceptable to the college community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of author's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

Students who share their work for the purpose of cheating on class assignments or tests are subject to the same penalties as the student who commits the act of cheating.

When cheating or plagiarism has occurred, instructors may take academic action that ranges from denial of credit for the assignment or a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination or project, to the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by the judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by a judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College.

This course strictly adheres to all policies concerning academic integrity as set forth in the current Seminole State College of Florida Catalogue. Any student who violates these policies is subject to receiving a failing grade for the course. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor. These penalties may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project;
- reduction in the course grade;
- a grade of "F" in the course;
- withdrawal from the course.