



暨南大學  
JINAN UNIVERSITY

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# JINAN UNIVERSITY

## Introduction to Religions

**Lecturer:** TBA

**Time:** Monday through Friday (June 17, 2019-July 19, 2019)

**Office hours:** 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

**Contact Hours:** 60 (50mins each)

**Credits:** 4

**Location:** MBA Center

**Office:** MBA Center 107

**E-mail:** TBA

### Course Overview

This course is a basic introduction to major religions of the world. We will explore beliefs and practices of religions native to each continent. As a group we will discuss specific themes that are common to most religions, and consider differences and similarities in the cultural practices of specific groups.

### Aim and Objective

Our goal will be to acquire a deeper understanding of diverse cultures, and foster respect for the beliefs of others. Students will gain:

- Knowledge of major religions and religious practice in today's world.
- Familiarity with the features that are common in many world religions.
- Acquaintance with religious terminology.
- A better understanding of their own beliefs.
- Empathy for people of different religious beliefs.
- Experience in using critical thinking skills.
- The ability to write intelligently about various aspects of religions.

### Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

### Required Material

1. Hopfe, L. M. & Woodward, M. R. (2009). *Religions of the World* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall.
2. Folder. This should be used to save additional readings handed out in class, as well as your completed and graded assignments.

### Assessment

Your overall course grade will be assigned on the basis of the following components (percentage of overall grade in parenthesis):

- Three quizzes (30%)
- Three one-page essays (30%)
- Final exam (30%)
- Attendance & Participation (10%)

### Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90-100
Good	B	80-89
Satisfactory	C	70-79
Poor	D	60-69
Failed	E	Below 60

## Course Policies

### Class Policies

#### *Attendance and promptness*

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Each absence will lower your final grade by two percentage points.
- Arriving late or leaving early will be counted as half absences.
- Attendance is mandatory. Be on time and stay for the duration of each class. Students with more than three absences will automatically fail the course.

#### *Class participation and preparation*

- Class participation involves:
  - **Attendance at all classes**
  - Cell phones turned off and placed face down on a specified desk at the beginning of class.
  - No use of social media during class.
  - **Contributing to class discussion** by asking questions, volunteering answers, and making observations about your reading or understanding of class topics.
  - **Speaking English at all times.** Once you enter the classroom, you should stop speaking Chinese, or any other language besides English, even to your classmates.
  - Turning in written assignments to the TA's at the beginning of class.
  - Assignments should be hand-written or typed and printed. Do not submit assignments electronically to the instructor or the TA's unless specifically requested. YOU are responsible for printing your work. Prepare assigned work at least one day before it is due to avoid printing problems to be certain your work will be on time.
  - Late work is minus 10% for each day late.

### Class Schedule

#### Week 1:

- Mon. Course Overview. Basic Religions and World Religions (Chapter 1)
- Tues. Native American Religions (Chapter 2)
- Wed. African Religions (Chapter 3)
- Thurs. Hinduism (Chapter 4)

Fri. Review and Quiz on Chapters 1-3

**Week 2:**

Mon. First paper due. Hinduism continued.

Tues. Jainism (Chapter 5)

Wed. Sikhism (Chapter 7); Zoroastrianism (Chapter 10)

Thurs. Buddhism in India (Chapter 6)

Fri. Review and Quiz on Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism

**Week 3:**

Mon. Second paper due. Native Chinese and Japanese Religions: Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto (Chapters 8, 9)

Tues. Buddhism in China

Wed. Buddhism in Japan

Thurs. Judaism (Chapter 11)

Fri. Review and Quiz on Buddhism, Chinese Religions, and Shinto

**Week 4:**

Mon. Third paper due. Judaism continued

Tues. Judaism continued

Wed. Christianity (Chapter 12)

Thurs. Christianity, cont.

Fri. Review

**Week 5:**

Mon. Christianity continued.

Tue. Islam (Chapter 13)

Wed. Islam continued

Thurs. Review

Fri. Final Exam

### **Academic Honesty**

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.