

0101R150

Introduction to Religions II

Instructor: Irene Wolf

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

Contact Hours: 25 hours (50 minutes each)

Credits: 2

Location: Huiquan Building

Office: Huiquan Building 518

E-mail: TBA

Course Description

This subject aims at providing students with a fundamental understanding of diverse types of religions and religious practices in today's world. At the same time, the course will examine the complex nature of religious phenomena, including religious knowledge and competing truth claims.

Required Textbook(s)

Invitation to World Religions – Authors: Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Bradley Nystrom, Robert Platzner, Richard Shek and Erin Stiles – Oxford University Press

World Religions: The great Faiths explored and explained by John Bowker, DK London, New York, Melbourne 2006.

Additional readings and resources will be distributed in class including: readings from Bible, New Testament including Sermon on the Mount, Parable of the Last Sheep, Parable of the Last Coin, Jesus the True Vine, etc.

Prerequisites

Introduction to Religion I

Course Goals

Religion is one of the most widespread and deeply entrenched aspects of human experience. It is also a phenomenon that has proven remarkably resistant to systematic

explanation. This course is an introduction to an array of influential approaches to explaining religion and its core aspects – e.g. ritual, religious institutions and belief in the supernatural. Through this course, students will gain a deeper understanding for the diversity and complexity of religion/s as well as a basic understanding of the study of religion. By the end of the course students will possess:

1. Familiarity with the philosophy and doctrines common in many world religions, including the Roman Catholic Church, Judaism and Islam.
2. A greater understanding of the traditions and history of the Roman Catholic Church.
3. A greater understanding of the traditions and history of Judaism and Islam.
4. An in-depth understanding of the most influential people in the largest and oldest religions, including Jesus and the 12 Apostles (Catholicism), Moses, Abraham (Judaism) and Muhammad (Islam).
5. An understanding of other religions and religious practices in today's world.

Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 60 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

Week 1

Monday

Course Overview

Tuesday

The largest religions of the World: Chap. 1: What religions do
Dimensions of religions,
Religions in the world
An Academic Approach to the Study of Religion

Wednesday

Christianity: Chap. 12
Study some of the parables from Bible New Testament,
The teachings of Christianity The Life of Jesus
The passion and Crucifixion of Jesus

Thursday

Continues Christianity Chapter 12 & The World Religions textbook, 148 The History of Christianity after Jesus
Protestant Churches

Friday

Group review

Discussion

Week 2

Monday

First exam first, then Judaism: Chap. 11

Tuesday

Judaism continues: Chap. 11

The Teachings of Judaism

The History of Judaism

Minor Festivals, The Sabbath

Wednesday

Islam: Chap. 13

The teachings of Islam

Before Islam

Sacred practices and Prayer

Thursday

Islam from World Religions textbook and Chap. 13

The Qur'an in daily life

What is Jihad

The Islamic Year and holidays

Sharia' s Islamic Law

Sufism

Friday

Group Review

Week 3

Monday

Buddhism Chapter 5 & World Religions text, 96

The teachings of Buddhism

Two selves of Buddhism

Eight-fold path of Buddhism

Tuesday

Sikhism, chap. 7

The teachings of Sikhism

The ten Guru's

The Golden Temple

Wednesday

Chinese Religions Ch 8

Confucianism Teachings

Taoism Teachings

Practices of both

Thursday

Shinto Chapter 9

The teachings of Shinto

General Practices

As a way of life

Friday

Group Study

Week 4

Monday

Second exam

Indigenous Religions of North America chap. 2

The teachings of Native American Indigenous Religions

The history of Native American Indigenous Religions

As a Way of life

Tuesday

Hinduism: World Religions text, 96

Hindu sacred texts

The sects of Hinduism

The paths of Hinduism and Faith

Wednesday

Indigenous Religions of Africa

The teachings and practices

As a Way of Life

Thursday

Jainism, Chap. 6

The teachings and practices

As a Way of Life

Friday

Group Study

Week 5

Monday

New Religious Movements

What is new about new religious movements?

Alternative Christianities and their offshoots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Tuesday

Christian Science and New Thought

Adventism Jehovah; Witness

The Family (Church of God)

The Church of Scientology

Wednesday

The Baha' Faith

Unitarian Universalism

New Atheism

World Religions text, Golden Rule cuts across all religions, 208

Thursday

Wrap

Friday

Final Exam

Course Requirements

1. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
2. Students are expected to read the required readings prior to the class session in which they are discussed.
3. Class Conduct: Consistent, respectful and informed participation is expected from every student in the course. This includes:
 - * Respectful discussion that avoids personal history;
 - * No email or Internet usage during class;
 - * Cell phones turned off when class begins.
4. I will respond to emails in a timely manner. It is best to make an appointment or speak to me after lecture.
5. It is your responsibility to keep me updated with attendance, email, etc.
6. Please check your email regularly for instructions and readings.

Grading Policy

Type	Percentage
First exam	25% of grade
Second exam	25% of grade
Final exam	30% of grade
Attendance	20% of grade

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

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in the class. It would be recorded each class and forms part of students' participation record. Students should inform the instructor at the earliest opportunity if they need to ask for a leave. All absences may have negative effect on students' final grades. Any students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, 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 a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, 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 that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.