

0101R100

Introduction to Religions

Instructor: Irene A. Wolf

Time: Monday through Friday (June 15, 2020 - July 17, 2020)

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

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Location: Huiquan Building

Office: Huiquan Building 518

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
Additional readings and resources will be distributed in class.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

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 120 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 of this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

Week 1

Mon. Course Overview

Tues. The largest religions of the World: Chap. 1

Wed. Christianity: Chap. 12

Thurs. Christianity continues: Chap. 12.

Fri. First Exam

Week 2

Mon. Judaism: Chap. 11

Tues. Judaism continues: Chap. 11

Wed. Islam: Chap. 13

Thurs. Islam continues: Chap. 13

Fri. Buddhism: Chap. 5

Week 3

Mon. Sikhism Chap. 7

Tues. Group presentation work

Wed. Chinese Religions: Chap. 8

Thurs. Shinto: Chap. 9

Fri. Zoroastrianism: Chap. 10

Week 4

Mon. Second exam

Tues. Hinduism: Chap. 4

Wed. Indigenous Religions of North America: Chap. 2

Thurs. Indigenous Religions of Africa: Chap. 3

Fri. Group work

Week 5

Mon. New Religious Movements

Tue. The Catholic Church and Pope Francis in today's world

Wed. Group presentations

Thurs. Final Exam

Friday. TBA

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	20%
Second Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Cooperative Learning Projects	20%
Group Presentation	20%
Total	100%

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.