

Chaminade University of Honolulu

Fall Evening Session 1998

Course Outline

RELIGION 10310

Religions & Human Community

Schofield Barracks

Fridays 17:30-21:40

October 9 - December 11

Instructor:

Timothy Freeman, Ph.D.

Phone: 737-3059

E-mail: freeman@hawaii.edu

Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

RELIGION 103: Religions and the Human Community (3 Credits)

Introduces the student to the historical, philosophical, and spiritual foundations of the major religious traditions in the world. The course examines these foundations of the world's religions, the lives of their founders, their basic teachings, the historical development of their communities and institutions, and their current status in the world.

REQUIRED TEXT

Matthews, Warren. *World Religion*, 2nd, ed., West Publishing Co., 1991.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the course is to expand the student's awareness of the world's religions and their impact upon the human community. At the end of the course the student will have a basic knowledge of the origins, historical development, rituals, myths, doctrines, ethical precepts, and experiences of the major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as the religions of China and Japan, and the tribal religions of peoples of Africa, the Americas, and Hawaii. The objective of the course is not to make any value judgments as to the truth or falsity of any religion but rather to understand as dispassionately as possible the phenomenon of religion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: All students are expected to attend class regularly, read the assigned material, and actively engage in classroom discussions. If students miss classes, they are expected to develop a proposal for independent make-up activities.

Journal: Each student will keep a journal in a conventional pen and ink notebook. Journals should contain responses to required readings, film presentations, and classroom lectures and discussion. A reasonable amount of class time will be reserved for journal reflection.

Exams: There will be four in-class examinations that will consist of objective type questions such as multiple choice, true/false, and identification of key terms, as well as short-essay questions based on class discussions.

GRADING CRITERIA

The final grade will be based on examinations (80%), journal (10%), and class participation (10%).

Course Schedule

Class	Introduction and Orientation	Reading
Class 1: 10/9	<i>Religion and the Human Experience</i> film: <i>Baraka</i>	Introduction (1-18)
Class 2: 10/16	<u>Part One: Religions of Tribes and City-States</u> <i>Religions of the Americas</i> <i>Religions of Africa</i> <i>Hawaiian Religion</i>	Chapter 1 (19-53) Chapter 2 (54-81) Handouts
Class 3: 10/23	*Exam on Part One* <u>Part Two: Religions of India</u> <i>Hinduism</i>	Chapter 3 (83-127)
Class 4: 10/30	<i>Buddhism</i> <i>Jainism & Sikhism</i>	Chapter 4 (128-150) Chapter 5 (178-205)
Class 5: 11/6	*Exam on Part Two* <u>Part Three: Religions of The Far East</u> <i>China: Confucianism and Taoism</i>	Chapter 6 (207-235)
Class 6: 11/13	<i>Buddhism in China, Japan, Tibet</i> <i>Japan: Shinto</i>	Chapter 4 (150-177) Chapter 6 (235-252)
Class 7: 11/20	*Exam on Part Three* <u>Part Four: Religions of the Near East</u> <i>Ancient Religions of Iraq and Iran</i> <i>Judaism</i>	Chapter 7 (253-274) Chapter 8 (275-323)
Class 8: 11/27	<i>Christianity</i>	Chapter 9 (324-378)
Class 9: 12/4	<i>Islam</i>	Chapter 10 (379-422)
Class 10: 12/11	*Exam on Part Four*	