

# *Chaminade University of Honolulu*

Summer Evening Session 1998

Course Outline

## RELIGION 10360

# *Religions & Human Community*

Pearl Harbor

Saturdays 8:00-12:10

July 11 - September 12

Instructor:

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## Syllabus

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

RE 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*, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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. Journals will be checked at the end of the course.

**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 some short-essay type questions based on class discussions.

**Final Oral Presentation:** The final exam will also include a brief oral presentation of the student's reflection on the course material. Ideally, the final oral presentation will be a summation and sharing of the student's journal reflections..

**GRADING CRITERIA**

The final grade will be based on examinations (50%), journal (20%), class participation (20%), and final oral presentation (10%).

*Course Schedule*

<i>Class</i>	<i>Course Schedule</i>	<i>Reading</i>
<i>Class 1: July 11</i>	<i>Introduction and Orientation</i> <i>Religion and the Human Experience</i> film: <i>Baraka</i>	Introduction (1-18)
<i>Class 2: July 18</i>	<i>Part One: Religions of Tribes and City-States</i> <i>Religions of the Americas</i> <i>Religions of Africa</i> <i>Hawaiian Religion</i>	Chapter 1 (19-53) Chapter 2 (54-81) Handouts
<i>Class 3: July 25</i>	<i>*Exam on Part One*</i> <u><i>Part Two: Religions of India</i></u> <i>Hinduism</i>	Chapter 3 (83-127)
<i>Class 4: August 1</i>	<i>Buddhism</i> <i>Jainism &amp; Sikhism</i>	Chapter 4 (128-177) Chapter 5 (178-205)
<i>Class 5: August 8</i>	<i>*Exam on Part Two*</i> <u><i>Part Three: Religions of The Far East</i></u> <i>China: Confucianism and Taoism</i> <i>Buddhism in China and Tibet</i>	Chapter 6 (207-235)
<i>Class 6: August 15</i>	<i>Japan: Shinto</i> <i>Buddhism in Japan</i>	Chapter 6 (235-252)
<i>Class 7: August 22</i>	<i>*Exam on Part Three*</i> <u><i>Part Four: Religions of the Near East</i></u> <i>Ancient Religions of Iraq and Iran</i> <i>Judaism</i>	Chapter 7 (253-274) Chapter 8 (275-323)
<i>Class 8: August 29</i>	<i>Christianity</i>	Chapter 9 (324-378)
<i>Class 9: September 5</i>	<i>Islam</i> film: <i>Spirit and Nature</i>	Chapter 10 (379-422)
<i>Class 10: September 12</i>	<i>*Exam on Part Four*</i> <i>Oral Presentations</i>	