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CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

COURSE:.....Religion and the Human Community (REL 103),
Winter Interim, Barber's Point 1997-98

CLASS MTGS:..... Dec. 22, 23, 27, 29, 30
Jan. 3, 5, 6, 8, 10

TIMES:Weekdays: 1730-2140, Saturdays: 0800-1210

INSTRUCTOR:..... Achilles S.C Gacis M.A., M.Div.

TELEPHONE:..... 549-1511 (digital pager)

OVERVIEW:

This survey course will deal primarily with the major religious traditions of the world, and how each belief systems provides meaning, articulates absolute values, and gives direction to its adherents.

The student will be introduced to the traditions of the Middle-East (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), South Asia (Hinduism, Buddhism), and East Asia (Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism). By exploring and examining the phenomena unique to each tradition(i.e. myth, ritual, scripture, dogma, religious practice, religious institution) the student will gain an objectively oriented insight into the ways in which religion(s) have affected and been affected by the human community throughout history.

TEXTBOOK: World Religions. Matthews, Warren. Second Ed.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING:

1 Introductory Exam

1 Mid-term Exam **NOTE:** Each exam is sectional. Final exam is not

1 Final Exam comprehensive.

Supplementary research.

Attendance will be taken. Failure to attend class carries its own penalty and is reflected on exams.

Questions for exams will be from lectures, readings, videos, etc.

Test format will vary: term identification, short answer, true/false, etc.

****Content subject to change at instructor's discretion with ample notice to the student.****

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COURSE OUTLINE:

- 22 Syllabus Pick-up. Course explanation.
M Introduction. What is "Religion?" A purposeful definition.
The nature of religious studies.
Research methodologies.
Philosophical dimensions of religion.
Impact of religion on the human community.
- 23 **INTRODUCTORY EXAM**
T Semitic Traditions: Judaism.....Ch. 08, p.275
Judaism: **Survival** WORD LIST
Judaism: The Sacred Texts
Judaism: VIDEO (Power of the Word)
Judaism: A look at the Torah
Judaism: Rituals; Passover and Meaning
Judaism: VIDEO (Dead Sea Scrolls)
- 27 Christianity.....Ch. 09, p.324
S Christianity: **Salvation** (Josephus)
Christianity: VIDEO (The life of Jesus).
Christianity: 033-1453 Constantine the Great
Christianity: " " Doctrine of the Trinity
Christianity: " " Seven Ecumenical Councils
Christianity: Dogma, Doctrine & Religious art
Christianity: VIDEO (Sacred Images-Iconography)
- 29 Islam.....Ch. 10, p.379
M Islam: **Submission** VIDEO (The Story of Islam)
Islam: Muhammad; history and development.
Islam: Dogma, Doctrine, and the Five Pillars
All three traditions. VIDEO (JERUSALEM)
- 30 **MID-TERM EXAM**
T South Asian Traditions HinduismCh. 03, p. 84
Hinduism: **Sacrifice**. The Trimurti WORD LIST
Hinduism: The Caste System and Ascetic practices
Hinduism: VIDEO (Dust & Ashes)
Hinduism: VIDEO (Snake Worship)
- 3 Buddhism: **Selflessness**. Four Noble Truths,Ch. 04, p. 128
S Buddhism: Noble Eight-fold Path, Pali Canon, Triratna
Buddhism: VIDEO (Footprint of the Buddha)
- 5 East Asian Traditions:Taoism: **Serenity**.....Ch.06 ,p.208
M (VIDEO: Chi, VIDEO: Taoism)
- 6 Confucianism: **Society**. The Analects, Five Values
T
- 8 Shintoism: **Spirit**. The Divine Nation.
Th VIDEO (Japan: Spirit and Form)
- 10 **FINAL EXAM** (Bring index card & SASE for grade mailer...)
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