

SE99
Freeman

Chaminade University of Honolulu

Spring Evening Session 1999

Course Outline

RELIGION 10310

Religions & Human Community

SCHOFIELD BKS - BLDG 560

MTWR 11:40-12:40

April 5 - June 10

Instructor:

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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*, 3rd. ed., Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1999.

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

Attendance and 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.

Exams: There will be five in-class examinations that will consist of identification of key terms as well as short-essay questions based on class discussions.

GRADING CRITERIA

The final grade will be based on the in-class examinations. Attendance and class participation will play a factor if a student's average is on the border between two grades. Course grades will be determined as follows:

Final Grade		Grade Average
A	Excellent achievement	90-100
B	Above average achievement	76-89
C	Average achievement	60-75
D	Minimal passing achievement	50-59
F		Below 50

Course Schedule

<i>Week 1:</i>	INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION	<i>Reading</i>
M 4/5	<i>Religion and the Human Experience</i>	<i>Introduction (2-17)</i>
T 4/6	<i>Film: Baraka</i>	
W 4/7	<i>Discussion</i>	
R 4/8	<i>Hawaiian Religion</i>	<i>Handout</i>

<i>Week 2:</i>	RELIGIONS OF TRIBES AND CITY STATES	
M 4/12	<i>Religions of the Americas</i>	<i>Chapter 1 (20-52)</i>
T 4/13	<i>Film: The Maya</i>	
W 4/14	<i>Religions of Africa</i>	<i>Chapter 2 (53-79)</i>
R 4/15	<i>Test 1</i>	

RELIGIONS OF INDIA

<i>Week 3:</i>	HINDUISM	<i>Chapter 3 (81-126)</i>
M 4/19	<i>Vedas</i>	
T 4/20	<i>Upanishads</i>	
W 4/21	<i>Classical Hinduism</i>	
R 4/22	<i>Film</i>	

<i>Week 4:</i>	BUDDHISM	
M 4/26	<i>Buddhism: The Buddha</i>	<i>Chapter 4 (127-146)</i>
T 4/27	<i>Buddhism: Theravada and Mahayana</i>	
W 4/28	<i>Jainism & Sikhism</i>	<i>Chapter 5 (178-206)</i>
R 4/29	<i>Test 2</i>	

RELIGIONS OF THE FAR EAST

<i>Week 5:</i>	CHINESE RELIGIONS	<i>Chapter 6 (208-235)</i>
M 5/3	<i>Cultural Background</i>	
T 5/4	<i>Confucianism</i>	
W 5/6	<i>Daoism</i>	
R 5/7	<i>Film</i>	

<i>Week 6:</i>	JAPANESE RELIGIONS	
M 5/10	<i>Buddhism in East Asia</i>	<i>Chapter 4 (148-177)</i>
T 5/11	<i>Zen</i>	
W 5/12	<i>Japanese Shinto</i>	<i>Chapter 6 (235-253)</i>
R 5/13	<i>Test 3</i>	

RELIGIONS OF THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM

Week 7:

JUDAISM

M 5/17

Ancient Precursors in Iraq and Iran

Chapter 7 (255-277)

T 5/18

Biblical Judaism

Chapter 8 (279-328)

W 5/19

The Development of Judaism

R 5/20

Judaism in the Modern Age

Week 8:

ISLAM

Chapter 10 (385-430)

M 5/24

Film

T 5/25

The Life and Teachings of Muhammad

W 5/26

The Development of Islam

R 5/27

Test 4

Week 9:

CHRISTIANITY I

Chapter 9 (329-358)

M 5/31

The Life and Teachings of Jesus

T 6/1

Paul and the Early Church

W 6/2

The Ecumenical Councils

R 6/3

Film

Week 10:

CHRISTIANITY II

Chapter 9 (358-384)

M 6/7

The Protestant Reformation

T 6/8

Christianity Today

W 6/9

Discussion

R 6/10

Test 5