

SYLLABUS

Pre

**Religion 10390****Religions and the Human Community**

Spring Accelerated Evening Term 1999

April 5 - June 14, 1999

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**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to help foster your knowledge of major world religious traditions and to help you develop an understanding of the role religions play within the human community. It will cover the following religious traditions:

- Oral Religions
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Taoism
- Confucianism
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

**Course Objectives:** Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the historical development of each world religion.
- Define many of the important terms and concepts used in world religions.
- Compare the similarities and differences in the way in which religious concepts are interpreted by different traditions.
- Discuss unique contributions made by each of the world religions.
- Discuss what religion is and how it functions in human life.

**Class Format and Activities:** This course is offered online utilizing e-mail and other internet technologies. Consequently, students are required to have access to a computer which is connected to the internet prior to registration. Students are also expected to be familiar with basic internet technology including sending and receiving e-mail and attachments, web board postings, navigating the World Wide Web, performing searches, and downloading files.

All students should be aware that Religion 10390 is a content-based survey course. Since this section is taught during an accelerated session, it proceeds at a fast pace. Because it is taught online it requires students to have the motivation and self-discipline to work independently in order to satisfactorily complete course requirements.

**Required In-Person Meetings:** There are two required in-person meetings: an orientation meeting to be held on Saturday, April 10, 1999, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM, and a final examination to be held on Saturday, June 12, 1999, both on the Chaminade University of Honolulu campus.

**Class Website.** Students are expected to be familiar with the entire website and to check the site regularly for updates. Materials posted on the website, in addition to this syllabus, include a course schedule, information about the course project, links to the class web board and chat room, links to internet resources on religion, tables comparing the major world religions, and a study guide for the final examination. Quizzes will also be posted on the website and after the deadline for each, the answers will be posted for students to use as study material for the final exam.

**Weekly Assignments:** Weekly assignments will typically include: (1) reading assignments, and (2) discussion group questions posted by the instructor. Reading assignments will be given throughout each week of the ten-week term. At least six discussion questions will be posted on the discussion board by the instructor throughout the term which will require a response by each student by the date noted on the course schedule. Students are expected to begin work in the class during the week of April 5-10, 1999, as noted in the course schedule.

**Course Project:** Each student is required to complete a course project. Options for the course project include: (1) field research on a religious tradition selected by the student, (2) planning an imaginary or making an actual religious pilgrimage, (3) creating an imaginary religion on paper, or (4) creating an original work of art representing the divine within a selected religious tradition.

Projects are due on Friday May 14th, to be dropped off at the Off-Campus and Evening Programs Office on the Chaminade main campus (call 735-4755 for office hours). Most base advisors visit the main campus each week and may be able to drop off student projects. However, it is the responsibility of each student to make appropriate arrangements to meet the deadline.

**Discussion Groups.** Each student will be assigned to a discussion group for the purpose of participating in the required web board discussions. Assignments will be posted on the web board after registration for the class has been closed. Students will be required to respond to at least six questions posted by the instructor throughout the term. The discussion questions will be graded on a pass/fail basis. In order to earn a passing grade, students must respond to all questions posted by the instructor, and responses must reflect independent thought and an understanding of the material under discussion.

**Quizzes and Final Examination:** Three quizzes will be administered online, and an in-person comprehensive final examination will be administered at the conclusion of the course. The dates of each quiz are noted on the course schedule. The final examination will be held on the Chaminade main campus on Saturday, May 12th, time and room to be announced.

**Required Text:** Molloy, Michael, *Experiencing the World's Religions*, Mayfield Publishing Company, 1999, with accompanying CD-ROM study guide.

**Other Required Readings:** Supplemental readings assigned by the instructor will be noted on the course schedule.

**Grading:** Satisfactory performance entails the successful completion of all of the following:

(1) Participation in all web board discussions (pass/fail); (2) completion of the course project; (3) three quizzes administered online; and (4) a comprehensive final examination. The weight of each of the various elements comprising the overall course grade is summarized as follows:

<b>Participation in Discussions</b>	<b>15% (pass/fail)</b>
<b>Course Project</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Quizzes (each)</b>	<b>10% (total 30%)</b>
<b>Final Examination</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Final grades will be calculated as follows:



<b>90 - 100</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>80 - 89</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>70 - 79</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>60 - 69</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>50 - 59</b>	<b>F</b>

This course should not be regarded as an easy "A"! All grades will reflect the standards set forth in Chaminade's 1998-99 General Catalog. As indicated in the catalog, an "A" signifies outstanding scholarship and unusual intellectual initiative; a "B" signifies superior work; a "C" signifies a competent grasp of the subject matter; a "D" signifies inferior work; and an "F" indicates failure to grasp the minimum subject matter.

**Expectations:** With the possible exception of documented emergencies, there will be no extensions given on assignment due dates or the final examination without the prior approval of the instructor. Students who fail to submit assignments or comply with other requirements are advised to withdraw from the course in order to avoid a final course grade of "F". Grades of "Incomplete" will only be given in cases of documented extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control and in accordance with Chaminade University of Honolulu policies. Attendance in this class is represented by the student's weekly web board postings and submission of other assignments. Students are expected to observe the regulations concerning academic honesty published by Chaminade University of Honolulu (see Chaminade University General Catalog).

**Mutual Respect and Consideration:** As subjects examined during this course may touch upon topics, beliefs, and/or issues considered sensitive by some students, it is imperative that all students demonstrate courtesy and respect concerning the views, opinions, and beliefs of others.

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