

Coleman  
RE 103  
SSII 99

Hj

## RELIGIONS AND THE HUMAN COMMUNITY Summer 2 1999



**Description:** This is a survey course designed to introduce the student to the major religious traditions and their various ways of creating community, and articulating history, spirituality and philosophy. We will discuss the phenomena of religion and religious expressions and institutions as we explore the meaning and relevance of religion in the modern world. Students will explore in a comparative manner the wisdom traditions in the human community and their articulations of the mystical and transcendence.

### Required texts:

Smith, Huston. *The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to our Wisdom Traditions*. New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.

Other readings may be assigned and will be on reserve in the library.

### On completion of this course the student will be able to:

- \* discuss the idea of religion and some of the theories for the origin of religion;
- \* discuss the use of myth in religion and religious language;
- \* discuss the many paths people follow in their response to the experience of transcendence;
- \* recognize the basic features of the religions;
- \* discuss and write about some of the stories, rituals, art and architecture, beliefs, and ethics of six religious traditions;
- \* discuss the cultural and philosophical contexts of Jainism, Hinduism, Confucianism and Taoism;
- \* discuss in detail the origins and development of ideas and institutions within Buddhism, Christianity, and Judaism;
- \* discuss the historical development of Islam; and
- \* explore the ethical dimensions of the religious traditions in the world today.

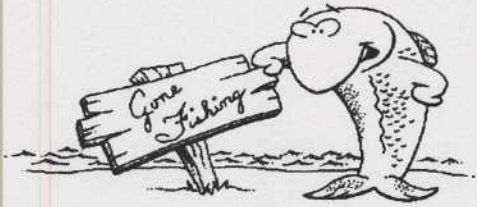


### Evaluation:

1) **Reading Assignments:** The reading assignments are noted on the course syllabus and they should be completed prior to the scheduled class. Unannounced quizzes may be given on the assigned readings.



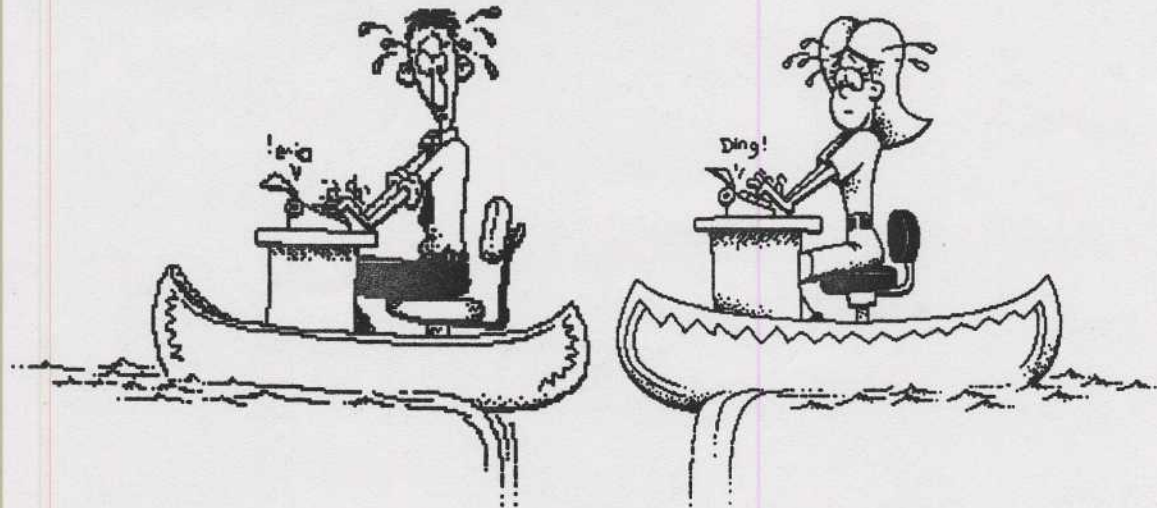
2) **Class Attendance:** Attendance will be taken. Class lectures, small group discussions, video materials and various activities will occur during class time, so your presence is required. You are responsible for insuring that your presence at a class is noted.



*If you have more than three unexcused absences, your grade may be lowered by one letter grade.* Failure to attend on an assigned presentation day may result in the loss of points for the assignment. Make-ups for presentations and papers may not be possible due to class time restraints.

3) **Tests:** Tests based on the reading materials will occur as needed. There is a midterm and final scheduled on the syllabus. In-class reflections may be conducted at the completion of each week. There may be additional announced (or unannounced) quizzes on materials from the readings, lectures, discussions, or videos.

4) **Class Project:** Students are required to complete a class project: write a medium length (8-12 page; double-spaced) research paper, based on a visit to one or more local churches and temples. It will have a minimum of 5 sources (other than the course texts), reference notes, and a bibliography. Your paper is due July 20, 1999.



5) **Final Exam:** The final exam will be held on . It will be based on a series of essay questions which will be given during the course. Portions of the exam may be take-home, but some portion of the exam will done in class.

**Grade Calculation:** Attendance: more than three unexcused absences may result in one grade reduction; Participation: 30%; Midterm: 20%; Research Paper 30%; Final Exam: 20%. May be adjusted as the semester progresses.



*It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor if any specific special needs or difficulties exist so that appropriate strategies for completion of the work may be mutually developed.*



**Syllabus Summer 2 1999**  
**RE 103 Religions and the Human Community**  
**Dave Coleman**  
**Office Hours: Henry 206a: 9:40-11:00 by appointment**  
**Office Phone: 735-4866**



**June 14: Introduction and Overview:?**

What is religion? What is myth

Required Readings: Smith, 8-15

**June 15: Film: Masks of the Eternal**

**June 16: Hinduism**

Required readings: Smith, 17-56.

**June 17: Discussion and reflection**

Film: Legacy

**June 18: Hinduism**

**June 21: Jainism**

Film: Ahimsa



**June 22: Indian Religions**

Film: Huston Smith, "Hinduism and Buddhism"



**June 23: Buddhism**

Film: Footprint of the Buddha

**June 24: Buddhism**

Required reading: Smith, 59-97.

**June 25: Buddhism**

Film: Requiem for a Faith

**June 28: Buddhism**

Required reading: Smith, 99-143.



**June 29: Chinese Traditions: Taoism and Confucianism**

Film: Huston Smith, Chinese Religions

**June 30: Midterm**

**July 1: Judaism**

Film: Heritage: A People is Born

**July 2: Judaism**

Required reading: Smith, 179-203.

**July 5: Holiday**

**July 6: Judaism**

**Discussion**

Film: Heritage: Crucible of Europe

**July 7: Judaism**

Film: Heritage: The Golden Land

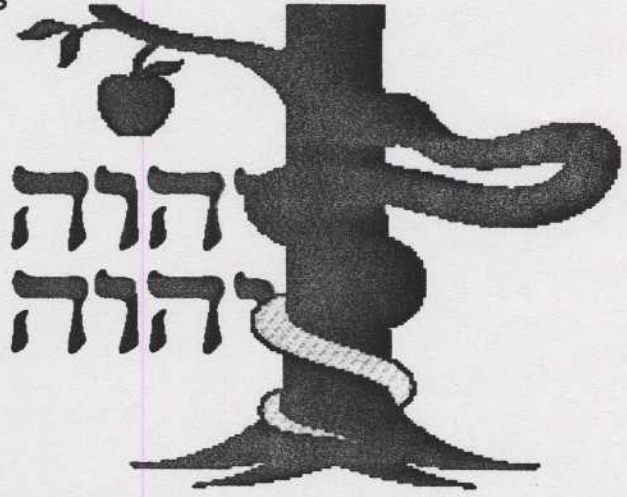
**July 8: Anti-Semitism and Holocaust**

Film: The Longest Hatred, Pt. 1

Required reading: Botwinick, "The Nature of Prejudice and the Historic Roots of Anti-Semitism"

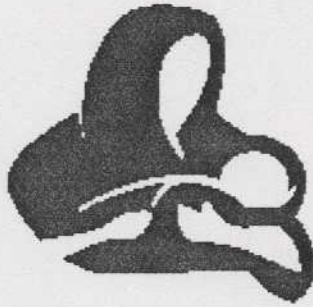
**July 9: Holocaust**

Film: Out of the Ashes



**July 12: Reflections**

Film: Huston Smith, "Judaism and Christianity"



**July 13: Christianity**

Required reading: Smith, 205-229.

Film: Jesus to Christ part 2

**July 14: Christianity**

Discussion: Historical Jesus, Christ of Faith

**July 15: Christianity**

Film: From Jesus to Christ, part three

**July 16: Christianity: Reformation**

**July 19: Christianity**

film: Bernardin

**July 20: Islam**

film: legacy: Iraq

**July 21: Islam**

film: Huston Smith, "Islam"

**July 22: Wisdom and Personal Journeys**

film: Long Journey: Loose Ends

**July 23: Final Exam**

