

SYLLABUS

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Religion 10390
Religions and the Human Community
Summer Accelerated Evening Term
July 6 - September 15, 1999

Robert Mitchell, Instructor
(808) 737-3012 office

e-mail: HLAF53A@Prodigy.com
web page: <http://host.fptoday.com/jtam>
web board:
<http://acad.chaminade.edu:8080/~13>

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to foster your knowledge of major world religious traditions and to increase your 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

SYLLABUS

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, July 10th, 1999, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM, and a final examination to be held on Saturday, September 11th, 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 course schedule, information about the course project (under construction), links to the class web board, links to internet resources on religion, tables comparing the major world religions, and a study guide for the final examination.

Weekly Assignments Weekly assignments will typically include: (1) Reading: reading assignments will be given throughout each week of the ten-week term and (2) discussion group questions posted by the instructor. 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.

Course Project: Each student is required to complete a course project. The course project involves conducting field research on a religious tradition, other than one's own, selected by the student.

Discussion Groups. Each student will be assigned to a discussion group for the purpose of participating in the required web board discussions. Discussion group assignments will be sent to each student after registration for the class has been closed. Students are required to respond to all 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.

Mid-Term and Final Examination: One Mid-Term examination will be administered online, and an in-person comprehensive final examination will be administered at the conclusion of the course. The dates of the mid-term and final examinations are noted on the course schedule. The final examination will be held on the Chaminade main campus on Saturday, September 11th, 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.


SYLLABUS

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) a mid-term examination; and (4) a comprehensive final examination. The weight of each of the various elements comprising the overall course grade is summarized as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Participation in Discussions | 20% (pass/fail) |
| Course Project | 20% |
| Mid-Term Examination | 20% |
| Final Examination | 40% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|
|  | 90 - 100 | A |
| | 80 - 89 | B |
| | 70 - 79 | C |
| | 60 - 69 | D |
| | 50 - 59 | F |

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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