

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

FALL SESSIONS

OCTOBER 2 - NOVEMBER 6, 2000  
FORT SHAFTER CAMPUS

**COURSE:** RE10340: Religions and the Human Community  
**CLASSROOM:** Fort Shafter - Bldg. 320  
**TIME:** Mondays, Wednesdays 5:30PM-9:40PM  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Malia Dominica Wong, O.P.  
**PHONE:** 676-1452  
**E-MAIL:** srmaliad@juno.com

**TEXTBOOK:** Molloy, Michael. 1999, **EXPERIENCING THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS: Tradition, Challenge, and Change.** Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an introduction to the historical, philosophical and spiritual foundations of the major religious traditions of the world-- Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The course will examine the lives of their founders, their basic teachings, the historical development of their communities and institutions, and their current status in the world. Using an experiential approach, and the classroom as a sacred space for personal spiritual growth, this course also endeavors to create a more universal understanding and appreciation of one's own tradition amidst this great cultural variety, in order to foster a more harmonious global community.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- \*to stimulate students to reflect on their own beliefs, feelings and attitudes towards different religious perspectives, correlating and contrasting them with what they are learning
- \*to foster the students' appreciation for the communal and cultural dimensions of religion, as well as the variety of expressions of personality and personal development that occur within religious traditions
- \*to understand the basic elements of religion
- \*to experience various forms of prayer and religious practices
- \*to explore the influences different religions have on various contemporary issues
- \*to grow deeper in one's own faith

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Students are to come to each class prepared by having read the assigned readings, completed any other homework assignments and being ready for in-class activities.

**GRADING:**

Grading will be based upon regular class attendance, class work, homework, journal writing, projects, quizzes, participation, and effort. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 10 or 12 point font only. 1-1/2 inch margins. Extra credit-- events and topics to be discussed as the occasion arises.

**\*CATEGORIES:**

Attendance: 1pt/each class  
 Class Participation: 2 pts/class  
 Journal reflections: 2pts/each  
 Reaction Papers: 5 pts/each  
 Midterm Project: 15 pts.  
 Final: 15 pts.

**POSSIBLE:**

10  
 20  
 20  
 20  
 15  
15  
**100**

90-100: A    80-89: B    70-79: C    60-69: D    59 and below: ☹

**\*EXTRA CREDIT:                    2-3 pts. each/10 pts. max.**

1 page typed reflection/review paper on:

- Extracurricular, intercultural activity or service attended (3 pts.);
- pertinent films and recreational reading review; newspaper clipping log and commentary; "For Fuller Understanding" at end of chapter (2 pts.); working in study guide-short answer (max. 10)
- Other suggestions? See me

**\*MAKE-UP FOR MISSED CLASSES (Class Participation points): 2 pts. each**

In the Study Guide, at the end of each section there are "Reflection Exercises." Choose 2 to reflect on (do, if participation required), and then write them up in a reaction-style paper 2 1/2-3 pages.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**\*Journal reflections:**

Hand-written or typed, aprox. 1 page each week to be submitted at midterm and before the final class (5/4 entries each time). Topic: feedback, reactions over chapter readings, or thoughts that may be stirred and you wish to share your response on.

**\*Reflection Papers:**

2 1/2-3 page typed papers to be submitted after each field trip. Content: reflections on the field trip, observations, comparisons, feelings, learnings, etc.

**\*In-class writings:**

Reaction papers written in class.

**\*Midterm Project:**

Show and Tell: Explore your own cultural and religious background, the traditions, the stories, the symbols, arts, music, foods, etc. associated with it. Create a 10 minute experiential presentation to share the influences explored, or, your present day

practices.

\*Final:

Scrapbook: Personal Philosophy of Life. Highlight significant events that have brought you to the point where you are now, and what you feel your contribution to the Circle of Life, niche in the web, is, and how you dream to attain it. Include circles of the interconnectedness between the social, political, environmental, universal realms. (aprox. 10 creative pages)

### **LEARNING OUTCOME ASSESSMENT:**

All student's work will be evaluated for:

\*knowledge of the subject matter from textbooks, class presentations, discussions, videos, research, outside class activities

\*ability to apply the knowledge to understand current issues in society

\*understanding of the subject matter from different viewpoints

### **SCHEDULE:**

- October 2:** Introduction, Oral Religions  
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 10 - text p. 401-453
- October 4:** Islam  
Homework: Readings: Chapt. 8 - text. p. 263
- October 9:** **No Class- Discoverer's Day; Yom Kippur**
- October 11:** Judaism  
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 4 - text p. 101-160
- October 16:** Buddhism  
Field Trip: Kagyu Thegchen Ling, Tibetan Buddhist Center  
Time: 7:30PM "Four Thoughts That Turn the Dharma"  
Address: 26 Gartley Place (Nuuanu, off of Old Pali Rd.)  
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 5 - text p. 163-185
- October 18:** Jainism and Sikhism  
Midterm Projects  
Hmwk: Readings: Chapt. 6 - text p. 187-232
- October 23:** Taoism and Confucianism  
Field Trip: Nuuanu Valley Park  
7:30PM "Chi Kung, Tai Chi"  
Address: (behind Queen Emma Summer Palace, Nuuanu)  
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 9 - text p. 319-397
- October 25:** Christianity  
Field Trip: Chaminade Mystical Rose Chapel  
7:30PM "Moving Prayers"  
Address: 3140 Waialae Ave.  
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 7 - text p. 235-261

- October 30:** Shintoism  
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 9 - text p. 55-98
- November 1:** Hinduism  
Final Project Due/Presentations  
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 11 - text p. 401-453
- November 6:** Religion and the Future: Modern Challenges, Contemporary Directions

**Note:** Syllabus is subject to change.

**Extra Credit Suggestions:**

Islam

Sat., Oct. 7

Dances of Universal Peace  
Niu Valley Elementary School Auditorium  
7:30PM (\$5 donation)

Tues Public Programs Series at the University of Hawaii (free)

Oct. 3

"What is Islam?" series, Islamic views on the creation and destruction of the universe, creation of life, day of judgement and the after-life  
7:30PM

Oct. 10

Islamic view on family life: birth, marriage, children, adoption, divorce and maintenance, inheritance, wills; and civic life: religious freedom, status of men and women, crime and punishment, democracy, global relationships, jihad, conversions, universality of religion  
7:30PM

Oct. 17

Video: "I Am a Sufi, I Am a Muslim" 52 minutes, color. Discussion follows. Explores Sufism, a mystical branch of Islam. Features the whirling dervishes of Turkey, who find God through ecstasy; the fakirs of Macedonia...  
7:30PM

Hinduism

Friday mornings "Prabhupada Presents" TV series on Vedic Wisdom and its application in our modern times. 9:30AM, channel 52

Buddhism

Sundays, 5-6:30PM, Vipassana Meditation. 4727 Aukai Ave. (Kahala)