

SE '00
Amy

**Chaminade University
Spring 2000**

Course: Religion 103 ^D Religions and the Human Community

Time: Friday 5:30 - 9:40 pm

Instructor: Gene Mills, Th. M., M.Div.

Contact: email: mills91@gte.net
telephone: 262-8788

Textbooks: Molloy, Michael, 1999, *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield.

Course Description:

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.

Course Objectives:

The course is designed to introduce you to the major religions of the world. At the end of the course, you will have increased your awareness of the important elements of the major religions — their myth, symbols, ritual, doctrine, moral codes, and artistic expression. You will recognize the differences among the religious traditions. You will better understand the religious issues and conflicts in the modern world. You will have a deepened appreciation of your own religious background and that of the community in which you live.

Class Format:

The course will utilize a variety of learning experiences including lecture, audio-visual presentation, group/individual projects and discussion. Students are required to be prepared for each class session through readings and assigned activities so that the most benefit may come from the learning experiences in class.

Requirements and Grading:

Three Examinations	20 points each
Projects	20 points
Term Paper	20 points

A standard, 10-point scale will be used in regards to final letter grades. Any assignment turned in late will be lowered in grade unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

Attendance Policy:

Unexcused absences equaling 2 weeks of the course will be reported to the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Records office. Unexcused absence of more than one week of classes will result in a lowering of the final grade in the course.

Course Calendar:

DATE	TOPIC	READING
4/7	Introduction and Oral Religions	pp. 1-53
4/14	Hinduism: Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, popular religion	pp. 55-99
4/21	Buddhism: life of Buddha, Theravada/Mahayana division, Jainism	pp. 101-174
4/28	Exam 1 Sikhism; Chinese religion: Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhist schools	pp. 174-233
5/5	Japanese religion: Shinto, Buddhist schools, Zen	pp. 235-261
5/12	Exam 2 Judaism: origins, Hebrew scriptures, rabbinical Judaism, Reform	pp. 263-317
5/19	Christianity: Jesus, Paul, Orthodoxy, medieval, Catholicism	pp. 319-360
5/26	Christianity: Reformation, Protestantism, modern challenges	pp. 360-399
6/2	Islam: Muhammad, Five Pillars, Sufism, development; Religion and the future: modern challenges, contemporary directions	pp. 400-489
6/9	Exam 3	

Term Paper

The term project will be a 5-7 page paper written on a "scripture" or major figure (founder, prophet, etc.) from any of the religions covered in the course. It should be mostly research, but should be written with interaction and thought on your part. All term papers are to be typed and double-spaced and on 8½"x11" white paper with 1" margins. All term papers must be perfect in spelling, punctuation and grammar. As with any research paper, all quotes, paraphrases and allusions are to be properly cited in either footnotes or parenthetical citations and must include a bibliography/works cited page.