

Chaminade University of Honolulu
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Fall 2001 October 1- December 13
Kaneohe MCBH
17:30- 21:40

Description: This is a survey course designed to introduce the student to the major religious traditions and their various ways of creating community within themselves, as well as articulating their histories, spiritualities and philosophies. We will delve into the phenomena of religion, religious institutions, language and symbols and explore their places in the modern world.

Texts:

Molloy, Michael. Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change
Trussell, Richard Curran. Study Guide to Accompany Molloy's Experiencing the World's Religions
CD-ROM study tool (optional)

Course Objectives:

- 1 To learn of the differing schools of thought in religious studies especially in regard to the theories of the origin of religion.
2. Discuss the basic characteristics of the major religions for comparative analysis as well as understand their respective places in a contemporary context.
3. To be introduced to some of the sacred concepts in the various religions through art, music and writing.
4. To learn of the historical developments of the religious traditions as seen through the human experience.
5. To know of the central religious figures who developed and affected their religions.
6. To provide a foundation for the further study of religion/religions.
7. To be able to openly engage others of various faiths in a meaningful and informed dialogue.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Two or more absences without extenuating circumstances (military assignments) may result in one grade reduction or failure of the course. Be advised.

Grading:

Tests-	60%
Quizzes-	20%
Project-	15%
Participation-	5%

Tests- There will be two tests each of equal weight (30%), a mid-term and a final. The final is not comprehensive.

Quizzes- The quizzes are based on the assigned reading due for that week. They may be essay, or multiple choice/true false/fill in the blank formats. The readings are an important part of class not only for your own understanding, but as a support for the lectures and to facilitate the class discussions.

Project- The project is designed to expose students to field research and to hone their analytical skills while broadening their overall religious exposure to other religions than their own. The students are to visit a place of worship that is unfamiliar to them and then write a 5-7 page (double spaced) essay based on their experiences and information gathered in class. The paper is due on 12/06- details will be discussed later.

Participation- Each class session is arranged so that students with various learning styles are able to use them and part of that structure includes class participation based on discussions. The discussions will be based on the materials presented in class from movies and lectures.

It is the students responsibility to inform me in a timely manner of any special needs or difficulties so that they may be addressed.

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

WEEK ONE 10/04
Introduction and overview
Understanding Religions
film and discussion of chapters 1 and 2
The Three Great Monotheisms
Begin Judaism

WEEK TWO 10/11
Judaism into Christianity
Quiz on chapter 8
film and discussion

WEEK THREE 10/18
Christianity into Islam
Quiz on chapter 9
film and discussion

WEEK FOUR 10/25
Wrap up loose ends and review
What is Halloween?
TEST #1

WEEK FIVE 11/01
Go over the test
Religions in China
Quiz on chapter 6
Introduce Buddhism
(All Souls Day 11/02)

WEEK SIX 11/08
Continue Buddhism
Quiz on chapter 4
Introduce Japanese Buddhism

WEEK SEVEN 11/15
Continue Japanese Buddhism and Shinto
Quiz on chapter 7
film and discussion
Introduce Hinduism

THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK EIGHT 11/29
Continue Hinduism
Quiz on chapter 3
film and discussion

WEEK NINE 12/06
PROJECT PAPERS DUE
Continue Hinduism
Field visit to Hare Krishna Temple (conditions permitting)
(Immaculate Conception 12/08 and Hanukkah 12/10)

WEEK 10 12/10
Wrap up loose ends and review
What is Christmas?
TEST #2

*Syllabus is subject to change