

**Chaminade University of Honolulu**  
Summer Evening Sessions 2002  
Tripler (W) Schofield Bks (F)

**Course:** RE103<sup>R</sup> World Religions  
**Instructor:** Rev. Herman Gomes, ss.cc.  
236-7749  
**Textbook:** "Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change" Molloy, Michael 1999 Mountain View, CA; Mayfield Publishing Company

**Course 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. We will delve into the phenomena of religion, religious institutions, language and symbols in history and explore their places in the modern world.

**Objectives:**

1. To learn the differing schools of thought in religious studies especially in regards to the theories of the origin of religion.
2. To discuss the basic characteristics of world religions.
3. To be introduced to some of the sacred concepts in the various religions through art, music and writing.
4. To learn the historical developments of the religious traditions as seen through human experience.
5. To know the central religious figures who developed and affected their religious movements.
6. To provide the foundation for further study of religions.
7. To engage students in meaningful dialogue in regards to significant ideas of other religious traditions.

**Class Format:** All assigned readings have been scheduled into the course calendar. Class participation is expected. There will be periodic tests to help students keep current with class material. To facilitate different learning styles - general lectures, seminar, and small group dynamics will be employed at different intervals throughout the course. The student is encouraged to actively participate by completing the assigned readings prior to the class, ready to enter into discussion in small groups, interacting and presenting questions pertinent to the matter during general lectures.

**Requirements and Grading:**

Attendance and participation - periodic quiz...	25%
Term Paper.....	25%
Midterm Exam.....	25%
Final Exam.....	25%

The term paper will be a 5-7 double-spaced paper, in which you will be able to research and share your own religious background **or** the religious background that may be foreign to you. In either case, you will become a quasi-expert in the religious tradition of your choice. You are strongly encouraged to attend and observe a religious ceremony and offer some reflection on your experience there.

Class quiz cannot be made up once students have received their graded quiz back. The quizzes will be based on the assigned readings due for that week.

The Midterm and Final Exam will be announced well in advance of their occurrence. The students will be given an oral study guide to help in the preparation of these examinations. The exams will be based on the textbook and classroom lectures/discussions.

Grading Scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=below 59%

**Course Schedule:**

- Week 1: Chapter 1 - Understanding Religion - foundations
- Week 2: Chapter 3 - Hinduism
- Week 3: Chapter 4 - Buddhism
- Week 4: Chapter 5 - Jainism and Sikhism
- Week 5: Chapter 6 - Taoism and Confusionism
- Week 6: Chapter 7 - Shinto
- Week 7: Chapter 8 - Judaism
- Week 8: Chapter 9 - Christianity
- Week 9: Chapter 10 - Islam
- Week 10: Chapter 11,12 Alternative Paths/ the Religios Search in the Modern World

RE 103: Religions and the Human Community

Chaminade University of Honolulu  
Instructor: Grant Arnold  
PH: 947-9558  
email:  
grantrocks@bigfoot.com

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

Texts:

Molloy, Michael. Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change

Course Objectives:

1. To learn of the differing schools of thought in religious studies especially in regard to the theistic religions.
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 literature.
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 (illness, assignments) results in one grade reduction or failure of the course. Be advised.

Grading:

- Tests- A midterm and a final, each worth 100 points
- Quizzes- Seven quizzes, each worth 30 points
- Pop quizzes- Two additional quizzes, each worth 10 points
- Participation- In total worth 70 points

Tests- There will be two tests each of equal weight, a mid-term and a final. The final is not cumulative.

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

Pop quizzes are really designed to enhance the weakest points of the lecture by giving the student a chance to solidify their understanding before the actual test and are based on the lectures in class.

Participation- Each class session is arranged so that students with various learning styles are engaged.

part of that structure includes class participation based on discussions. The discussions will be 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 difficulti be addressed.

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

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#### WEEK ONE

Introduction and overview  
Understanding Religions  
film and discussion of chapters 1 and 2  
The Three Great Monotheisms  
Begin Judaism

#### WEEK TWO

Judaism into Christianity  
Quiz on chapter 8  
film and discussion

#### WEEK THREE

Christianity  
Quiz on chapter 9  
film and discussion

#### WEEK FOUR

Islam  
Quiz on chapter 10  
film and discussion

#### WEEK FIVE

Wrap up loose ends and review  
**TEST #1**

#### WEEK SIX

Go over the test  
Introduce Shinto  
Quiz on chapter 7

#### WEEK SEVEN

Introduce Hinduism  
Quiz on chapter 3

#### WEEK EIGHT

Introduce Buddhism  
Quiz on chapter 4  
film and discussion

#### WEEK NINE

Continue Buddhism into  
Chinese religions  
Quiz on chapter 6

#### WEEK 10

Wrap up loose ends and review  
**TEST #2**

\*Syllabus is subject to change