

FE 102

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

Course: RE103¹⁰ 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, Confusionism, 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