

Wé'02

**CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
WINTER TERM
JANUARY 10 - MARCH 14, 2002
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS CAMPUS**

COURSE: RE10310: Religions and the Human Community
CLASSROOM: Building 560
TIME: Thursdays, 5:30 - 9:40 p.m.
INSTRUCTOR: (Dr.) Sister Malia Dominica Wong, O.P.
PHONE: 676-1452
E-MAIL: srmaliad@juno.com

TEXTBOOK: Molloy, Michael. 2002, **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 by being ready for in-class activities.

GRADING:

Grading will be based upon regular class attendance, class work, homework, 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:
Class Participation:
Reaction Papers:
Homework:
Quizzes:
Midterm Project:
Final:

WEIGHTING:

10%
20%
15%
10%
10%
15%
20%
100

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

***EXTRA CREDIT:**

1 page typed reflection/review paper on:

Extracurricular, intercultural activity or service attended; pertinent films and recreational reading review. Other suggestions? See me.

ASSIGNMENTS:***Homework:**

Each class you are requested to submit over the readings, three questions, or points of interest that stirred your thoughts or curiosity. Or, bring in a current event article and share your commentary.

***Reaction Papers:**

1 ½ page typed papers to be submitted after each field trip. Content: reactions/reflections on the field trip, observations, comparisons, feelings, learnings, etc.

***Quizzes:**

Short review quizzes or 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 7 minute experiential presentation to share the influences explored, or, your present day practices.

***Final:**

Oral presentation. Posterboard divided into 11 sections representing 10 major religious traditions and 1 space for your personal synthesis. In each section, place a picture or word/words that you feel bring out what you got out of the study of each. In the last section, express how these learnings or exposures affect your own personal beliefs.

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:

- January 10:** Class: Introduction, Oral Religions
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 3 - text p. 59-104
Writing: Compare and contrast the role of sacrifice in Hinduism with that found in a religion of your own choice.
- January 17:** Class: Hinduism
Field Trip: *Hare Krishna Temple
Archana Puja: 6:30PM
51 Coelho Way
(Nuuanu, on towards town side of Pali Hwy.)
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 4 - text p. 105-166
- January 24:** Class: Buddhism
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 5 - text p. 167-190
Chapt. 6 - text p. 191-236
Writing (choose 1):
*Construct an argument for or against the Jain acceptance of religiously inspired self-starvation compared with what we know as "suicide."
*Consider your own "home culture." If Confucianism became an influence there, how would its principles or rules be expressed in everyday language or activity?
- January 31:** Class: Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism
Hmwk. midterm presentations
- February 7:** Class: Midterm Presentations
Hmwk: Readings: Chapt. 8 - text 265-320
Writing: Read a story from the Hebrew Bible about an Israelite hero or leader. What can we learn from his/her strengths or weaknesses?
- February 14:** Class: Judaism
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 9 - text 321-402
- February 21:** Class: Christianity
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 10 - text 405-456

- February 28:** Class: Islam
Field Trip: *Jerrahi Order of Hawaii Tekke
Litany/Maghrib: 6:30 p.m.
Zikr: 7:45 p.m.
1224 Punahou St.
(Across Central Union Church, just below Wilder)
Hmwk. Readings: Chapt. 11 - text p. 457-490
- March 7:** Class: Alternative Paths
Hmwk: Final Projects
- March 14:** Religious Search in the Modern World, Final Project Due/Sharing

Note: Syllabus is subject to change.