

RE 10320
RELIGIONS & HUMAN COMMUNITY
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Winter Evening 1998
Course Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This survey course will introduce the student to the major historical, cultural, philosophical, and doctrinal features of the world's more important ancient and contemporary religions. The pedagogical model will be that of the tour, with the instructor serving as a guide to the thoughts, sights, sounds, peoples of different religions; the students as tourists who question, collect, and experience new phenomena.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: 1. To help the student develop his or her own faith understandings; 2. To help the student understand the religious orientations of other cultural groups.

COURSE TEXT: World Religions (Second Edition) by Warren Matthews. Some of the information from the course textbook is incorporated into the class lectures. The student should refer to the course schedule, and read related sections in the course text.

GRADING: Grades will be distributed according to the following on a set standard of accumulated points: 200 - 180 points = A; 179 - 160 = B; 159 - 140 = C; 139 - 120 = D; 119 and below = F. Points will be accumulated via the following learning/evaluative projects: Midterm Examination (50 points); Final Examination (50 points); Self-Graded Project Presentation (50 points); Field Trips (50 points). Students may opt for an incomplete if they are not able to complete the course requirements within the period specified for this course.

IMPORTANT!

Students will receive a passing grade (A – D) for this course only if they:

- Attend at least seven out of the ten class sessions. Excused absences (absences verified by a **physician's** or an **employer's report**) will not count as an absence. If you anticipate not being able to attend at least seven out of the ten class sessions, please drop this course.
- Submit all four assignments, including the group presentation. Please note that students who do not participate in their group's presentation may request that the group repeat the presentation on another occasion, on a related topic.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Students should attend each class session, complete assignments by the scheduled dates, inform the instructor of any anticipated absences, and, if absent, obtain from classmates lecture notes and other materials. Please do not see the instructor for materials you can obtain from your classmates.

OTHER POLICIES: Please use the restrooms at your discretion as no break periods are scheduled. Children are permitted to sit quietly in the classroom.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION: A former pastor, Christian education director, and secondary school teacher, Carl Imakyure was educated at the University of Hawaii (B.Ed.), Gordon Corwell Theological Seminary (M.Divinity, M.R.E.), and Columbia University (Ed.D.), and is presently pursuing a M.Ed. degree from the UH at Manoa. He may be contacted at 641-5518 (pager).

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITIES	DUE
January 17	Introduction. Assignment to Groups Religions of Non-Literate Peoples: <input type="checkbox"/> The Religion of Hawaiians	(Signup for Project Presentations)
January 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Indian Religions <input type="checkbox"/> African Religions Religions of Ancient City-States: <input type="checkbox"/> Religion of the Egyptians <input type="checkbox"/> Mesopotamian Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Religion of the Greeks <input type="checkbox"/> Religions of the Americas	
January 31	Hinduism Sikhism Jainism	
February 7	Buddhism Taoism Confucianism	(Preparation of Midterm)
February 14	FIELD TRIP	
February 21	Judaism Catholicism	Midterm Examination Project Presentations
February 28	Protestantism	Project Presentations
March 7	Islam	Project Presentations Field Trip Forms
March 14	New World Religions	(Distribution of Final Examination)
March 21		Final Examination

PROJECTS

Due: February 21, 1998

Grading: Self-graded. On the cover page of the paper submitted, the student should indicate the grade (1 - 50 points) he or she feels was earned in developing the project.

Activity: Develop a **typewritten** (double-spaced, 12 point type) research paper of no more than five pages sufficient for an oral presentation of about three to five minutes. The research plus other supplementary materials (photos, charts, artifacts, etc) will be presented **orally** by the student to the class on the project due date. Each presentation will be timed to ensure that it is no longer than five minutes. Students may partner with **one** other classmate to produce a joint presentation of no longer than ten minutes. However, each member of the team must submit a separate, non-duplicated, original research paper.

Project possibilities:

1. Describe the major features of an ancient or contemporary religion which interests you. The student may follow the format of the course text, or of the class lectures (history, culture, major questions, problems, etc). If it is a religion already discussed in class, the student may prefer to consider in depth one of the more interesting features of that particular religion--for example, mummification in Egyptian religion.
2. Trace a theme, such as the practice of magic, nature of reincarnation, the nature of the soul, as it is understood in at least three different religions. The student should also include his or her own personal understanding of this subject as it compares or contrasts with these religions.
3. Visit a religious site associated with a religion with which the student is NOT familiar. Interview significant persons, collect materials, gain an understanding of that particular religion, and record these thoughts and images in journal form, to be read to the class. This activity shall be in **addition** to the field trip requirement, and should reflect in-depth investigation.
4. Any other activity which will help the student to understand, explore, experience God, assuming such activity is sufficient for a five-page, three to five-minute presentation.

A signup sheet for order of presentation will be circulated at a subsequent class.

Please do not select a topic already selected by another student.

FIELD TRIPS

Due: March 7, 1998

Instructions: Individually or as members of a group, visit five of the sixteen suggested religious sites described below, scheduling your visits so that you can observe the worship or other religious activities at each site. For each site you visit, submit one (1) field trip form, for a total of five forms to be submitted to be submitted by each student in his or her own unique style.

- **Do not photocopy each other's completed forms.**
- **Do not visit sites representing a religion you are already familiar with.**

SITE 1: Hindu: Iskon Hawaii (51 Coelho Way, 595-3947).

SITE 2: Jehovah's Witnesses: Central Kingdom Hall (1228 Pensacola, 521-7372).

SITE 3: Charismatic: Grace Bible Church: (1052 Ilima Drive, 595-6381).

SITE 4: Bahai: Bahai Honolulu Community (3264 Allan Pl, 595-2748).

SITE 5: First Southern Baptist Church of Wahiawa (1233 California Avenue, 622-4321).

SITE 6: Buddhist: Honpa Hongwanji (1727 Pali Highway, 522-9200).

SITE 7: Protestant: New Hope Christian Fellowship (see newspaper for announcements).

SITE 8: Christian Science: Christian Science Society of Wahiawa (1637 California Avenue, 621-0228).

SITE 9: Mormon: Brigham Young University--Hawaii (55-220 Kulanui, 293-3211).

SITE 10: Greek Orthodox: Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox (930 Lunalilo St., 521-7220).

SITE 11: Unity: Unity Church (3608 Diamond Head Circle, 735-4436).

SITE 12: Muslim: Muslim Students Association (1935 Aleo Place, 947-6263).

SITE 13: Protestant: Kawaihao Church (957 Punchbowl, 522-1333).

SITE 14: Hawaiian: Keaiwa Heiau (Aiea Heights Road).

SITE 15: Supernatural Tour (with Glen Grant, 943-0371).

SITE 16: Zen: Chozen-Ji (3565 Kalihi St., 845-8129).

SITE 17: Protestant: New Hope Christian Fellowship (see newspapers).

Name: _____

FIELD TRIP FORM

1. Name, Location Of Site Visited:
2. Names Of Individuals Talked To:
3. Religious Activities Observed:
4. Description Of Basic Beliefs, Practices, History Of This Religion:

History:

The problem:

The goal:

Metaphysics:

Epistemology:

Nature of God:

Nature of the human being:

Religious Practices:

5. Your Evaluation Of This Religion (Strengths, Weaknesses):

Use back of this form if you need more room for any item. Photocopy for more forms.