

Prey RE 103
SSI 2000
Day



RELIGIONS AND THE HUMAN COMMUNITY Summer 2000

Description:

This is a survey course designed to introduce the student to the major religious traditions and their various ways of creating community, and articulating history, spirituality and philosophy. We will discuss the phenomena of religion and religious expressions and institutions as we explore the meaning and relevance of religion in the modern world. Students will explore in a comparative manner the wisdom traditions in the human community and their articulations of the mystical and transcendence.

Required texts:

Molloy, Michael. *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change*. Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1999.

Trussell, Richard Curran. *Study Guide to Accompany Molloy's Experiencing the World's Religions*. Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1999.

CD-ROM Study Tool

Recommended Texts:

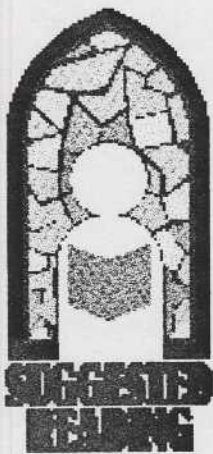
Smith, Huston. *The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to our Wisdom Traditions*. New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.

Other readings may be assigned and will be on reserve in the library.

On completion of this course the student will be able to:

- * discuss the experiences that we call the "sacred," the concept of religion and some of the theories for the origin of religion;
- * discuss the use of myth in religion and religious language;
- * discuss the many paths people follow in their response to the experience of transcendence;
- * recognize the basic features of the world's major religions;
- * discuss and write about some of the stories, rituals, art and architecture, beliefs, and ethics of six religious traditions;
- * discuss the cultural and philosophical contexts of Jainism, Hinduism, Confucianism and Taoism;
- * discuss in detail the origins and development of ideas and institutions within Buddhism, Christianity, and Judaism;
- * discuss the historical development of Islam; and
- * explore the ethical dimensions of the religious traditions in the world today.

Evaluation:

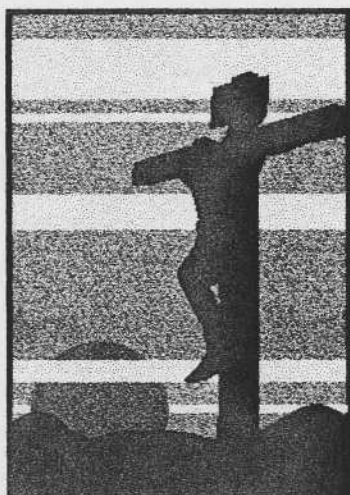
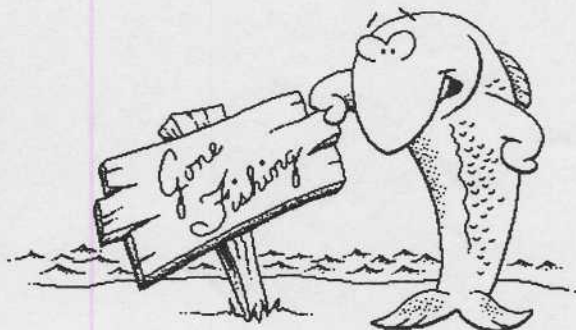


1) **Reading Assignments:** The reading assignments are noted on the course syllabus and they should be completed prior to the scheduled class. Unannounced quizzes may be given on the assigned readings.

2) **Class Attendance:** Attendance will be taken. Class lectures, small group discussions, video materials and various activities will occur during class time, so your presence is required. You are responsible for insuring that your presence at a class is noted.

If you have more than three unexcused absences, your grade may be lowered by one letter grade.

3) **Tests:** There will be three tests based on the lectures and reading materials. The tests are not cumulative, and they will be based on the three areas of study for the course: Primal (Oral) Religions, Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism; Buddhism and the Religions of China and Japan; and Abrahamic Religions..



4) **Creative Portfolio:** We will use writing in class, outside of class, drawing, short papers, and group discussions as ways to evaluate the material we see, hear, and read. You may also share (max 2 min) articles from newspapers and magazines on religion and religious objects for the class on Thursdays. Please arrange time with the instructor. You will prepare a portfolio of work to hand in by June 22, 2000. You will include a minimum of 30 entries. A POSSIBILITY OF TWO POINTS AWARDED FOR EACH ENTRY (Appearance and presentation qualities count.) You may do drawings, paintings, original poetry, songs, and other

imaginative/creative works. You may also prepare video/multimedia presentations, but you must get permission and a portfolio must accompany the work. Up to 10 entries may be reflections on articles (you must include a copy of the article you use.) All entries will include

- the day the work was DONE;
- the item (or picture, if it is a religious object); and
- a paragraph on the significance of the entry for your study of the world's religions.

Grade Calculation:

Attendance: more than three unexcused absences may result in one grade reduction;

Tests: 50%; 300 points total: 100 points per test

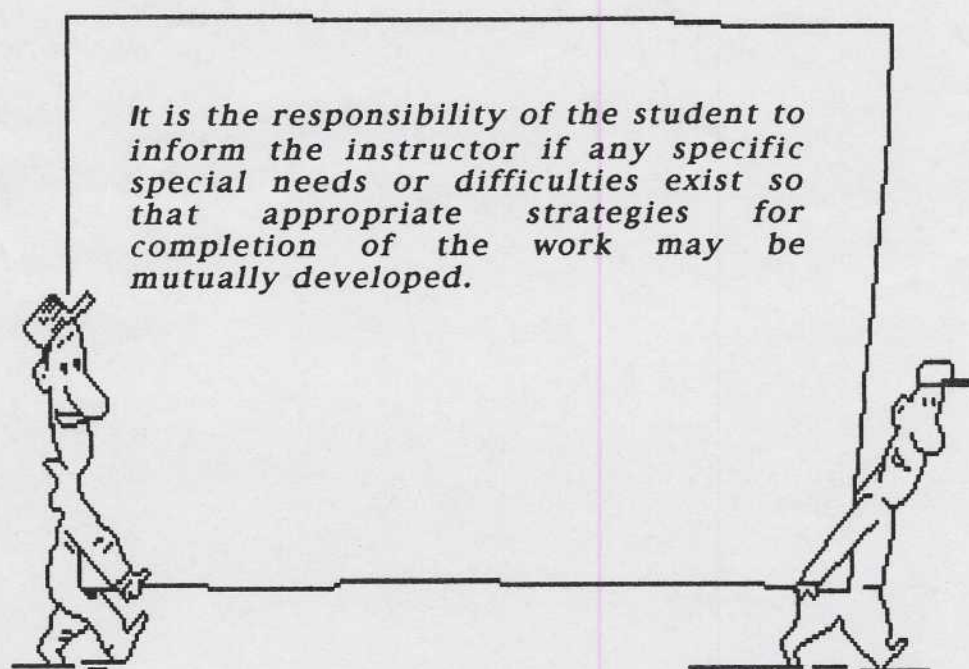
Study Journal: 20%; 120 points

Creative Portfolio: 20%; 120 points

Participation: 10%; 60 points; may include essays written in class

Your grade is calculated using the following scale:

A: 91 -100%; B: 81 - 90%; C: 71 - 80%; D: 61 - 70%; F: 0 - 60%.



Syllabus Summer 2000
RE 103 Religions and the Human Community

Dave Coleman
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May 22: Introduction and Overview:?
What is transcendence and the sacred? What is religion? What is myth?
Required Readings: Molloy, 1-21
Recommended: Smith, 8-15



May 23: Oral Religions
Required reading: Molloy, 23-53

May 24 Hinduism: Vedic Religion
Required readings: Molloy, 55-79
Recommended reading: Smith, 17-56.

May 25: Indian Religions
Film: Huston Smith, "Hinduism and Buddhism"

May 26 Hinduism
Required reading: Molloy, 79-99;
Decision Sheets on Course Project are due.

May 30 Jainism
Required reading: 163-185. Film: Ahimsa



May 31: Early Buddhism
Required reading: Molloy, 101-123.

June 1: Theravada Buddhism
Film: Footprint of the Buddha

June 2: Review

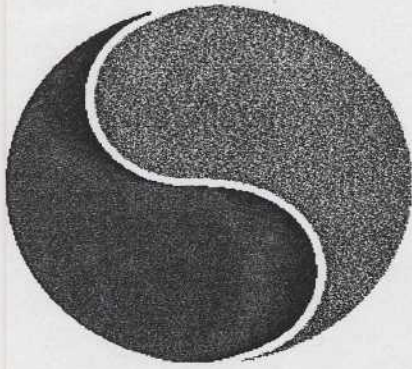
June 5: Test One

June 6: Mahayana Buddhism
Required reading: Molloy, 123-161.

June 7: Mahayana Buddhism

June 8: Tibetan Buddhism
Film: Requiem for a Faith





June 9: Tibetan Buddhism

Film: Dalai Lama

Recommended reading: Smith, 59-143.

June 12: Taoism

Film: Huston Smith, Chinese Religions

Required reading: Molloy, 187- 205

June 13: Confucianism

Required reading: Molloy, 206-233.

June 14: Japanese Religions

Required reading: 235-261.

Film: Land of the Disappearing Buddha

June 15: Review

June 16 Test Two

June 19: Judaism

Required Reading: 263-292

Film: Chosen People

Week Eleven:

June 20: Judaism

Required Reading: 293-317

Film: Heritage: The Golden Land

June 21: Antisemitism

Film: The Longest Hatred, Pt. 1



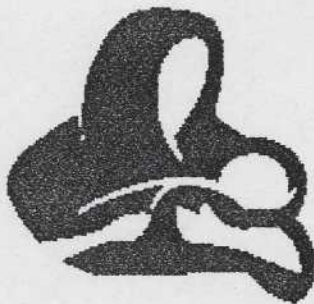
June 22: Holocaust

Film: Out of the Ashes

June 23: Reflections

Film: Huston Smith, "Judaism and Christianity"

Creative Portfolio is due!



June 26: Christianity

Required reading: 319-355

June 27: Christianity

June 28: Christianity

Film: From Jesus to Christ (3)

June 29: Christianity:

Required Reading: 355-399

film: Bernardin

June 30: Islam

film: Huston Smith, "Islam"

Required reading: Molloy, 400-453

