

FD'01

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
FALL SESSION
AUGUST 28 - DECEMBER 16, 2001
MAIN CAMPUS

COURSE: RE103.⁰⁷ Religions and the Human Community
CLASSROOM: H223
TIME: Tuesdays, Thursdays 2:00PM-3:20PM
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Malia Dominica Wong, O.P.
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TEXTBOOKS: *Molloy, Michael. 2001, *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change, Second Edition.* Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co.
*Trussel, Richard Curran. *Study Guide to Accompany Experiencing the World's Religions, Second Edition.*
*CD-ROM *Study Tool*

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

- On completion of this course, students will be able to:
- *discuss the important elements of the major religions-- their myth, symbols, ritual, doctrine, moral codes and artistic expression;
 - *recognize the differences and commonalities among the religious traditions
 - *understand the religious issues and conflicts in the modern world
 - *appreciate more their own religious backgrounds and that of the Chaminade community
 - *reflect on their own beliefs, feelings and attitudes towards different religious perspectives, correlating and contrasting them with what they are learning

ORGANIZATIONAL THEMES:

MARIANIST EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND DIVERSITY

Organizational themes refer to the underlying structural links that contribute to the choice of content, the pedagogy selected for the participation of the teacher/learner and student/teacher in bringing the content to life, and fulfillment of the course

objectives within a broader frame of education and community building.

1. The first set of organizational themes around which the course is constructed is drawn from the "Characteristics of Marianist Universities."
 - *Education for formation in faith;
 - *Provide for an integral quality education;
 - *Educate for family spirit;
 - *Educate for service, justice and peace; and
 - *Educate for adaptation and change.
2. The second major organizational theme is diversity and the complex issues that are associated with the theory and practice of criminology and criminal justice within diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities.

Objectives arising from these organizational themes:

1. Students will incorporate into their presentations and final project an awareness of the Marianist educational characteristics and how they impact on their reading of the texts and themes for the course, as well as their personal philosophy and practice in regard to religion and religious communities.
2. Students will develop an awareness and deeper appreciation for the diversity theories and experiences that are at the origins of religious communities and traditions, and discuss the impact of ethnic and religious diversity in the study of religion during this course.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are to come to each class prepared by having read the assigned readings, completed any other homework assignments and being ready for in-class activities.

GRADING:

Grading will be based upon regular class attendance, class work, homework, journals, term project, quizzes, tests, participation, and effort. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 10 or 12 point font only with 1-1/2 inch margins. Style must be consistent with the *Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*.

Attendance: More than three unexcused absences may result in one grade reduction. Excessive absences may result in failure of the course.

Extra-Credit: Options—

Extra-credit field trips: 9/15 Keaiwa heiau, Aiea
 10/20 Downtown temples
 11/10 Downtown Christian churches

Others: attendance at inter-cultural activities or services;
 pertinent films; enrichment reading

Note: It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any specific special needs or difficulties that one may have in order that appropriate strategies for the completion of the work may be mutually developed.

*CATEGORIES:	WEIGHTING:
Class Participation:	10%
Essays:	10%
Journal:	10%
Quizzes:	10%
Tests:	20%
Presentation:	15%
Term project:	15%
Final:	<u>10%</u>
	100

93-100%: A; 83-92%: B; 73-82%: C; 63-72%: D; 0-62%: F

ASSIGNMENTS:

***Essays:**

There are two homework essays. Due dates are listed in the syllabus.

***Journal:**

The purpose of the journal is to enhance one's awareness of the sacred in everyday life. There are three parts to fulfilling this.

1. Collect newspaper clippings, magazine articles, or other information regarding current religious issues.
2. Use pictures, images, drawings, poetry, music, art work, paintings and other creative works to express your own meaning of religion and religious experience in your life.
3. With each dated entry, write a short paragraph expressing your understanding of the significance of the entry to your study of the world's religions.

Journals will be collected twice during the semester. Ten entries are due each time. You may put together a comparable video/multi-media presentation.

***Quizzes:**

Quizzes or short in-class writings will be held periodically over the readings.

***Tests:**

There will be three tests based on the classroom discussions and reading materials.

***Presentation:**

The requirements for the religious and cultural background presentation are stated in the syllabus.

***Term project:**

The following are options to choose from for the term project. Select one.

- *Service opportunity
- *Attendance at a service other than one's own religion
- *Creating on paper a new religion
- *Planning an imaginary pilgrimage that involves visiting at least five religious sites
- *Design your own project with the approval of the instructor

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:

Week I: Introduction and oral religions

Aug. 28: Introduction and overview text: 1-23

Assignment:

*Write down at least five questions that you feel universally all human beings ask.

*Discern Core project

Aug. 30: Film: *Pillars of Faith*

Week II: Hinduism

Sept. 4: Vedic religion, caste system text: 53-76

Sept. 6: Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Yogas text: 76-92

Week III: Hinduism, cont.; Jainism and Sikhism

Sept. 11: Popular religion; text: 93-103

Film: *The Long Search: 300 Million Gods*

Note: Contact Bro. Tom for Community Service Projects by today

Sept. 13: Jainism and Sikhism text: 167-189

Film: *Jainism*

Assignment: Write a two page essay paralleling techniques of non-violence found in Hinduism, Jainism and contemporary society.

Week IV: Test I

Sept. 18: Test Review

Due: Essay; Decision Sheet for Term project

Sept. 20: Test I

Week V: Buddhism

Sept. 25: Life of the Buddha, basic teachings text: 105-121

Sept. 27: Theravada and Mahayana: Chinese and Japanese text: 122-150

Film: *Footprint of the Buddha*

Week VI:	Buddhism, cont.; Taoism	
Oct. 2:	Tibetan Vajrayana	text: 150-165
	Film: <i>Compassion in Exile</i>	
Oct. 4:	Taoism and early Chinese religion	text: 191-209
	Due: Journals	
	Assignment: Delving into your own religious and cultural background, prepare a participative seven-minute presentation of a food or art associated with it. Share on the story or symbolism.	
Week VII:	Taoism, cont.; Confucianism and Shinto	
Oct. 9:	Taoism and Confucianism	text: 209-235
	Film: <i>Confucianism</i>	
Oct. 11:	Shinto; Presentations	text: 237-263
	Due: Religious and cultural background presentations	
Week VIII:	Test II	
Oct. 16:	Presentations, cont.; Test Review	
Oct. 18:	Test II	
Week IX:	Judaism	
Oct. 23:	Origins, Hebrew scriptures	text: 265-289
Oct. 25:	Rabbinical Judaism, Reform	text: 289-295
	Film: <i>The Chosen</i>	
Week X:	Judaism, cont.; Christianity	
Oct. 30:	Judaism and the Holocaust	text: 295-319
	Film: <i>Out of the Ashes</i>	
Nov. 1:	Blessed Chaminade	
Week XI:	Christianity	
Nov. 6:	Jesus, Paul, monasticism, Orthodoxy	text: 321-357
	Due: Term project	
Nov. 8:	Medieval	text: 357-368
	Film: <i>From Jesus to Christ</i>	
Week XII:	Christianity, cont.	
Nov. 13:	Film: <i>Brother Sun, Sister Moon</i>	
Nov. 15:	Film: <i>Brother Sun, Sister Moon, cont.</i>	
Week XIII:	Christianity, cont.	
Nov. 20:	Reformation and Social Justice	text: 368-403
	Film: <i>Oscar Romero</i>	
	Assignment: Write a two page essay on how you feel you have, or could integrate Christian and Marianist values in your life to the betterment of the human community.	
Nov. 22:	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving	

Week XIV: Islam

Nov. 27: Mohamad, Qur'an, Five Pillars text: 405-426

Due: Essay

Nov. 29: Sufism, modern Islam text: 426-455

Film: *Rumi*

Week XV: New Religious Movements

Dec. 4: Religion and the future: modern challenges text: 457-527

Dec. 6: Review

Week XVI: Final Exam

Dec. 12, 12:45-2:45PM: Final Exam: Sign up for time. Oral, bring in your journals.

*NOTE: Syllabus subject to change.