

RE103 – 01/02: World Religions
CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
Fall Day 2002

TIME: Section 01: 8-9:20 a.m., Tues./Thurs.
Section 02: 2-3:20 p.m., Tues/Thurs.
INSTRUCTOR: Regina Pfeiffer
PHONE: 735-4700 (on campus: X700)
E-MAIL: rpfeiffe@chaminade.edu
OFFICE HOURS: MTRF: 12:30-1:30 p.m. W: noon to 1 p.m. and by appointment
OFFICE: Kieffer Hall Room 3

COURSE

TEXTBOOK: Molloy, Michael. *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change, Second Edition.* Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 2001

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the historical, philosophical and spiritual foundations of the major religious traditions of the world, among which are Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The course will examine their foundations and founders, basic teachings, historical development and current world status. In addition, the course will invite students to explore their sense of the sacred in their personal lives. It will endeavor to encourage students to develop a more universal understanding of relationship between humanity and the sacred in order to foster a sense of membership within the 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 similarities 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 Theme:
Marianist Educational Philosophy**

The choice of content, the pedagogy selected, and the fulfillment of the course objectives rely on the organizational theme. The organizational theme around which the course is constructed is derived from the document, "Characteristics of Marianist Universities."

Educate 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.

The root of the word educate, *educare*, means to "lead out from." To educate means to begin where persons are individually to lead them to a future locus of where they will become. It is a journey that continues throughout one's life.

Formation in faith

Individuals are persons of "faith." To be human, one must be in relationship with others and that requires "faith" of some kind. Specific faith in a Transcendence experienced by peoples worldwide is the major content of this course.

Provide an integral quality education

Integral education provides learners with the foundations necessary for completeness and wholeness, to be fully human in the global community. As the global community becomes more a part of an individual's life, the understanding of the various ways in which people believe and act is crucial to a person's personal and communal growth. As a core course, we will further our knowledge of the worldviews of others.

Educate for family spirit

Family is more than the persons to whom we are related. We create families in many ways, through friendships, work and school. Working together for the common needs and good of the family group is fundamental to healthy relationships. Through the assignments and discussions, we will work together to build the family of Chaminade University.

Educate for service, justice and peace

To quote John Paul II from a speech on Jan. 1, 2002, he said, "There is no peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness." The road to forgiveness begins with awareness and service to work toward justice and peace. In light of Sept. 11, 2001 and all acts of violence, degradation, and oppression worldwide, we need to begin the process of self-examination and expand toward understanding. This course will attempt to give students the opportunity to reflect on one's self and grow in self-knowledge.

Educate for adaptation and change

Adaptation and change begin with new knowledge and insight, and with the wisdom to view another's perspective. This course will enable the learner to explore various ways in which people attempt to answer or ponder the questions of ultimate meaning.

Course Methodology

Instruction will consist of lectures, film/video, group discussions and presentations. Students will be expected to participate in the group discussions and presentations.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to:

- attend class regularly;
- read required text assignments and other assignments given at the discretion of the instructor;
- participate in group discussions in class;
- do additional research as required;
- complete all assignments on time. Points may be deducted for late work if the student does not inform the instructor in advance.

GRADING:

Grading will be based upon class attendance, class work and discussion, homework, quizzes, participation, effort, term or service project and exam. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font only with 1-1/2 inch margins with appropriate citations using a consistent style. Style must be consistent with the *Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*.

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:	Total points possible	WEIGHTING:
Class Participation and Attendance:	60 points	20%
Essays:	20 points	07%
Written assignments:	10 points	03%
Quizzes:	50 points	16%
Group Presentation:	20 points	07%
Term Project Option:	40 points	13%
Mid-Term exam:	50 points	17%
Final exam:	50 points	17%
	300 total points	100%

- A: 270-300/90-100%
- B: 240-269/80-89%
- C: 210-239/70-79%
- D: 189-209/63-69%
- F: 188 and lower/62% and below

Class participation and attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. The student is responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any absence. Two points are given for each class and will be deducted in total for unexcused absences. Students with excused absences may receive the assigned points for the missed session by submitting a response paper that the instructor will provide.

Participation includes preparing readings, discussion and in-class writing assignments given at the discretion of the instructor.

Essays:

There are two essay assignments. These essays must be typed, double-space using 12-point type and with appropriate citations using a consistent style. Essay topic choices will be given in class. Points will be deducted if proper citations are not included. Plagiarism will result in no credit for the essay and could lead to dismissal from the course.

Written assignments:

Written assignments will be distributed in class. You will be expected to respond to the question or one of the questions as indicated on the assignment. Assignments will be due the following class session.

Quizzes:

There will be five quizzes based on the classroom discussions and reading materials. The tests are not cumulative and will consist of material from text, lectures and video.

Group Presentation:

Students will be assigned to a group consisting of two or three students. Each group will select a religious tradition and prepare a participative seven-minute presentation of a food, ritual or art associated with it. The group will share the story or symbolism with the rest of the class. The group will be required to do some research in order to acquaint the rest of the class symbolism or meaning associated with the food, ritual or art.

Term Project Option: Service Learning, Term Paper or Journal:

The following are three options for the paper for the course. Select one. You will be required to indicate which of the following is your option by **Sept. 19**. Requests for service learning option will not be accepted after that date.

▪ Option A: Service Learning

- Contact Br. Tom Spring for a service-learning project or have one approved by the instructor.
- Students will keep a log of activity and hours worked. You must work for a minimum of 12 hours. You may not use the 12 hours for this class and another one but you may use the same project for more than one course adding the necessary hours to meet the requirements for both courses.
- Students will meet with the instructor regarding the service learning experience at least once during the term. Dates and times for meeting with the instructor will be announced, usually at noon on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Optional dates will be provided to meet students' schedules.
- Students will have an evaluation completed by the supervisor of the service learning activity and submit that with final paper.
- Students participating in service learning will write a final paper of 4-5 pages that integrates the material learned in class with the service learning activity.

▪ Option B: Term Paper

- Students will write and submit a 7-10 page paper on the topic selected.
- Suggested topics
 - Attendance at a service other than one's own religion;
 - Attend a service in a religion that is new for you. Describe the service. If possible, interview the minister and ask about the ritual elements that were part of the service. Compare and contrast this service with your own.
 - Creating a new religion;
 - In creating this new religion, develop the primary symbols, rituals and stories that describe the sacred and the relationship between the sacred and humanity.
 - Planning an imaginary pilgrimage that involves visiting at least five religious sites;
 - Explain the purpose of visiting these five sights. What significance do these sites have for the pilgrim? What prayers or rituals would be included in this pilgrimage?
 - A project of the student's design with prior approval from instructor. This could be a research project on one of the religious traditions studied in class focusing in on a particular idea or aspect.

Option C: Journal:

- The purpose of the journal is to enhance one's awareness of the sacred in everyday life. There are three steps to this process of reflection.
- Step 1 –
 - Collect newspaper clipping, magazine article, or other information regarding current religious issues; or
 - 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; or
 - Respond to statements, questions or suggested journal entries provided by instructor. There will be a limit indicating how many of these you can use for that section of your journal.
- Step 2 - Date your journal entry.
- Step 3 - Write a short paragraph expressing your understanding of the significance of the entry to your study of the world's religions or respond to the reflection question you have selected.
- You must have 20 different entries in your journal (about 1-2 per week).
- You will submit your journal in two parts – the first 10 entries by Oct. 22 and the final 10 entries by Dec. 3.

Mid Term and Final

There will be a mid-term exam and final exam. The mid-term exam will consist of reading assignments and class lectures from the beginning of the term to the mid-term. The final exam will consist of content from the reading assignments and class lectures from the mid-term to end. Students are responsible for all reading assignments, including material that is not discussed in class.

Extra-Credit: Students may submit up to **three** extra-credit assignments for additional points toward final grade. Requirements: two-page reflection/review paper on an extracurricular, intercultural activity or service attended, pertinent films or enrichment reading. These extra credit options may not be used to fulfill any other requirements for the course, such as journal entries.

LEARNING OUTCOME ASSESSMENT:

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;

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision)

Reading assignments are for the following class.

Week I: Introduction

Aug. 27: Introduction and overview

Reading assignment: pp. 1-25

Aug. 29: What do we mean by religions? Why should we study religions?

Reading assignment: pp. 27-57

Week II: Oral Religions and Hinduism

Sept. 3: Oral religious traditions

Sept. 5: Quiz #1 (Chapters one and two)

Religious traditions of India - Hinduism

Reading assignment: pp. 59-103

Week III: Hinduism, cont.; Jainism and Sikhism

Sept. 10: Hinduism

Reading assignment: pp. 167-189

Sept. 12: Jainism

Week IV:

Sept. 17: Sikhism

Sept. 19: Quiz #2 (Chapters 3 and 5)

Introduction to Buddhism

Selection of option of Service Learning, Term Paper or Journal deadline.

Reading assignment: pp. 105-137

Week V: Buddhism

Sept. 24: Buddhism: Mahayana and Theravada

Reading assignment: pp. 150-161

Sept. 26: Vajrayana Buddhism

Due: Essay one

Reading assignment: pp. 191-235

Week VI: Taoism and Confucianism

Oct. 1: Quiz #3: Buddhism (Chapter 4 assigned readings)

Chinese Traditions: Taoism and Confucianism

Oct. 3: Taoism and Confucianism

Reading assignment: 137-150, 237-263

Week VII: Japanese Religious traditions

Oct. 8: Shinto and Buddhism in Japan

Oct. 10: Mid-term review

Week VIII:

Oct. 15: Mid-term: Chapters 1-7

Reading assignment: pp. 265-318

Oct. 17: Judaism: Origins and beliefs

Week IX: Judaism/Christianity

Oct. 22: Judaism

Reading assignment: pp. 321-354

Due: First 10 entries of journal due for students electing this option

Oct. 24: Judaism and the roots of Christianity

Reading assignment: pp. 355-361

Week X: Christianity

Oct. 29: Christianity

Reading assignment: pp. 362-373

Oct. 31: Christianity

Reading assignment: pp. 405-455

Due: Essay two

Week XI: Islam

Nov. 5: Quiz # 4: Chapters 8 and 9

Islam

Nov. 7: Islam

Reading assignment: pp. 457-to the end of the text

November 8: Last day to withdraw

Week XII: Alternative Paths

Nov. 12: Alternative Paths

Nov. 14: Quiz # 5: Chapters 10 and 11

Group presentations

Week XIII: Islam

Nov. 19: Group presentations

Nov. 21: Group presentations

Week XIV: Research Session

Nov. 26: Research and Writing session

Nov. 28: Holiday: Thanksgiving

Week XV: Final week

Dec. 3: A brief overview of some emerging movements

Term project due

Dec. 5: Final thoughts and Review

Week XVI: Final Exam (from Chapter 8 to the end of the text)

Section 01: 8-10 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10

Section 02: 12:45-2:45 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 11