
 SYLLABUS

Religion 48090
American Religions
Summer Evening Term
July 1 – September 10, 2002

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O mankind, I created you from a single pair and made you into nations and tribes that ye may know each other, not that ye may despise each other."
The Qur'an

"Screw the Buddhists and kill the Muslims"

Response of public official in South Carolina to controversy over posting the Ten Commandments in public schools, May 1997

Course Description: A walk around the block in my Nuuanu Valley neighborhood takes me past the Daijingu Temple of Hawaii (Shinto), Honmon Butsuryushu Hawaii Mission (Buddhist) and St. Stephen's Church (Catholic). On a longer walk, I also encounter the Bahai Faith, Temple Emanu-El (Jewish), Unitarian Church, Hare Krishna Temple (Hindu), Kagyu Thegchen Ling (Tibetan Buddhist), Bentenshu Hawaii Kyokai (Japanese Buddhism), Tendai Mission of Hawaii (Japanese Buddhism), Tenrikyo Hawaii Dendocho (Japanese New Religion), and the Nuuanu Congregational Church (Protestant). Driving down Nuuanu Avenue into Chinatown, I cruise by the Hsu-Yun Temple (Chinese Buddhism), Honolulu Central Seventh Day Adventist Church (Protestant), Soto Mission of Hawaii (Japanese Zen Buddhism), Calvary Chapel of Honolulu (Protestant), and Nuuanu Baptist Church (Protestant), to name just a few. A drive around the island would take me to the Laie Mormon Temple (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), Puuhonua O Malaekahana (Hawaiian "Place of Refuge"), the Pu'u o Mahuka Heiau (Hawaiian temple), thought to have been used for human sacrifice in times of war, and a Muslim mosque, in addition to innumerable other places of worship.

The diversity of religious practice and institutions found in Hawai'i is not unique. The purpose of this course is to foster your knowledge and understanding of America as the most religiously diverse nation in the world and how it came to be so. We will explore the arguments used to foster freedom of religion in colonial times, which allowed Catholics and Jews to settle in primarily Protestant territory, to present-day battles being fought from zoning boards to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Native peoples, Sikhs, Jains, Zoroastrians, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and others seeking to establish communities of like-minded worshipers. We will cover a broad range of religious practices, but will emphasize the patterns of immigration and settlement of Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim communities in America, both in terms of the textbook and field research required for the class.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Religion 103 or permission of the instructor. Permission will

only be given to students willing to do substantial additional reading regarding world religious traditions, in order to have the background necessary to understand the Americanization of such traditions.

Required Reading: The textbook for the course is *A New Religious America: How A "Christian Nation" Has Become The World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation*, by Diana L. Eck (HarperSanFrancisco, 2001). Other materials available online will also be required, as noted in the course schedule.

Online Format: This course is offered online utilizing email, web-based conferencing and other internet resources. All students must be familiar with Chaminade University's [Prerequisites for Online Courses](#) and WebBoard conferencing system ([click here](#) for a brief tutorial). As noted, in general, online courses require students to be more self-motivated and self-disciplined than traditional courses. Specifically, as an upper-division course taught during an accelerated session, this course will require you, among other things, to keep up with substantive reading, complete weekly assignments, conduct independent research, engage in reflective thinking and write a formal research paper.

Class Website: Students are expected to be familiar with the entire website and to check the site regularly for updates. Materials posted on the website, in addition to this syllabus, include a course schedule, information about the required research project and paper, a link to the class WebBoard conference, and a study guide for the final examination. In addition, the mid-term examination will be posted on the website during the time period noted on the course schedule.

Course Schedule: Please see the course schedule for a week-by-week listing of required readings, participation in WebBoard discussions, and short writing assignments. The schedule will also list the dates of posting and deadline for submission of the online midterm examination, the due date for the research paper, and the date of the final examination.

Summary of Course Requirements:

- **Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments are posted on the course schedule. In order for students to participate effectively in WebBoard discussions, prepare for examinations, and complete the required research paper, it is expected that each student complete assigned readings during the time period indicated on the course schedule.
- **Participation in WebBoard Discussions:** Students will be required to participate in five WebBoard discussions during the class (see the course schedule for specific dates of each discussion). The discussions are meant to encourage thoughtful reflection concerning the subject matter covered in the course. To receive a passing grade on discussion entries, you must demonstrate independent thought and understanding of the subject under discussion. Entries that simply reiterate another student's entry will receive failing grades.
- **Research Project and Paper:** Each student is required to complete a research project, which will include both field and library research. The field research will be conducted at a Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim religious service in Hawai'i (any student not located in Hawai'i during the class should contact the instructor for additional instructions), as selected by the student. Additional library research concerning the selected religious tradition's immigration to America and subsequent changes in practice will also be required. A research paper summarizing and interpreting your research is required. Please consult the

research project page for detailed information concerning the research and writing requirements.

• **Mid-Term and Final Examinations:** The mid-term examination will be administered online. It will be posted on the class website for a period of one week (see course schedule for dates of posting and due date). An in-person comprehensive final examination will be administered at the conclusion of the course. The final exam will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2002, time and room to be announced, on the Chaminade University main campus.

Proctored Final Examination: When extraordinary circumstances prevent a student from taking a final examination on the scheduled date, a proctored final examination may be administered by an approved proctor at a later date. Arrangements for proctored final examinations must be made as early as possible by contacting the Accelerated Undergraduate Program (AUP) Office at 735-4755. Once arrangements for a proctored examination have been made through the AUP, you must inform the instructor of the arrangements made.

Grading. Satisfactory performance entails the successful completion of the following:

(1) Satisfactory participation in WebBoard discussions; (2) completion of the research project and paper; (3) a mid-term examination; and (4) a comprehensive final examination. The weight of each of the various elements comprising the overall course grade is summarized as follows:

WebBoard Discussions	25% total (5% each of 5 discussions) (Pass/Fail)
Research Project	30%
Mid-term Examination	15%
Final Examination	30%
TOTAL	100%

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
50 - 59	F

All grades will reflect the standards set forth in the Chaminade University General Catalog. As indicated in the catalog, an "A" signifies outstanding scholarship and unusual intellectual initiative; a "B" signifies superior work; a "C" signifies a competent grasp of the subject matter; a "D" signifies inferior work; and an "F" indicates failure to grasp the minimum subject matter.

With the possible exception of documented emergencies, there will be no extensions given on assignment due dates or the final examination. Students who fail to submit assignments or comply with other requirements are advised to withdraw from the course in order to avoid a final course grade of "F".

Incomplete Grades: Incomplete grades will not be issued except in extraordinary circumstances, as defined below. In no case will a grade of Incomplete be assigned, unless the majority of work has been completed by the student to the satisfaction of the instructor. Should an extraordinary circumstance arise which will or may prevent the completion of required course work, contact the instructor immediately.

Plagiarism: The Chaminade University General Catalog states the following:

"Plagiarism is the offering of work of another as one's own. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Complete or partial copying directly from a published or unpublished source without proper acknowledgement to the author. Minor changes in wording or syntax are not sufficient to avoid charges of plagiarism. Proper acknowledgement of the source of a text is always mandatory.
2. Paraphrasing the work of another without proper author acknowledgement.
3. Submitting as one's own original work (however freely given or purchased) the original exam, research paper, manuscript, report, computer file, or other assignment that has been prepared by another individual."

This policy statement means that students are not allowed to submit the work of another as their own, that altering the work of another for presentation as one's own constitutes plagiarism, and that all sources, including internet sources, must be properly cited. Please refer to the research project page and "Use of Internet Sources" below for further information on proper citation of sources.

If a student commits plagiarism, or fails to properly cite all sources, then the student will receive no credit for the assignment and the Academic Dean will be notified accordingly.

If there is any doubt about whether or not the use or submission of a particular work constitutes plagiarism, contact the instructor for guidance.

Use of Internet Sources: Locating and evaluating web sites pertaining to specific religious traditions will be a component of the weekly WebBoard assignments and discussions in this class. You are also likely to draw upon Internet sources as you complete your research paper. Indeed, learning to evaluate the authority, reliability and credibility of web sites is a critical skill for any Internet user. The following links are recommended to assist students to effectively evaluate and document Internet resources:

- [Evaluating Web Sites](#) developed by Purdue University
- [Evaluating Internet Information](#) tutorial developed by Purdue University
- [MLA](#) rules for proper citation of internet sources

Mutual Respect and Consideration: As subjects examined during this course may touch upon topics, beliefs, and/or issues considered sensitive by some students, it is imperative that all students demonstrate courtesy and respect concerning the views, opinions, and beliefs of others.