

Religion 151

Religion and the Meaning of Existence

03 credits

TuTh, 1:30-2:45

INSTRUCTOR:	Sarah Hadmack
OFFICE:	Palanakila 140
OFFICE HOURS:	TR 9:35am-11am, MW 2:50-3:50pm
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EFFECTIVE DATE:	Fall 2008

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Introduction to basic issues of the question of the meaning of human existence. Emphasis is placed upon the student analyzing his/her own beliefs and exploring alternative answers. WCC: DH

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times

If you receive a grade of C+ or lower on your first paper, you will be required to meet with me to discuss your writing skills before the next paper assignment is due.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Identify the various understandings of experience, existence, and/or the Ultimate/Absolute Reality in the world's religious traditions.
2. Compare and contrast the similarities and differences between these meanings of existence in two or more religions.
3. Identify the rituals, myths, and symbols/art that shape these worldviews.
4. Analyze their belief systems.

COURSE TASKS

The course will be centered on the following tasks, which serve as both learning and assessment tools.

- ✎ Take two exams. Exams will be based on material covered in class and the course readings.
 - Exams contain essay questions. You will receive possible essay questions before the exam to enable you to better prepare.
 - Exam 2 is not cumulative.
 - To do your best on each of the exams, it helps to cultivate good listening, studying, and note-taking skills.

- ✎ Complete portfolio assignments before the portfolio draft collection date and complete all portfolio entries before the final collection date. There will be assignments throughout the semester that are intended for your end of the semester portfolio. Guidelines regarding the portfolio will be distributed during the first week of classes.

- 📁 Complete a variety of in-class activities and home work assignments including think logs, card swaps, webbing, debates, flashcard ‘quiz,’ movers and shakers, pair square, popcorn reading, reading quizzes, role play, silent Socratic dialogue, toss a ‘test,’ crossword puzzles, word searches, symbolism identification, game shows, etc.
 - These assignments enhance your analysis, synthesis, and critical thinking skills. They also enable you to reflect on themes in class and comprehend the topics in a more sophisticated manner.
 - Groups will typically consist of 3-4 members, and will usually be randomly assigned. The instructor acknowledges that not all students feel comfortable performing in front of the class. You will not have to participate in all of the activities. For example, role-playing and popcorn reading calls on volunteers and is not a requirement in order to pass the class.
 - For some of these in-class activities you will receive detailed feedback. For other assignments you may only receive a check mark indicating full credit.
 - Since group assignments require being present for class, you will **not** be able to make-up these assignments, regardless of reason, if class is missed. On the other hand, if you have a coupon, you will be allowed to make-up think logs. It is also your responsibility to see me to get any make-up assignments.
 - Some of these assignments will be collected **randomly**. Keep all assignments in your pocket folder and bring it to every class.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

Portfolio Draft.....	10%
Portfolio Final.....	30%
2 Exams (15% each).....	30%
In class assignments, homework assignments, & attendance.....	30%
	100%

Grades available:

A = 90% -100%

B = 80% -89%

C = 70% -79%

D = 60% -69%

F = 59% and below

N= The 'N' grade indicates that the student has worked conscientiously, attended regularly, finished all work, fulfilled course responsibilities, and has made measurable progress. However, either the student has not achieved the minimal student learning outcomes and is not prepared to succeed at the next level, or the student has made consistent progress in class but is unable to complete the class due to extenuating circumstances, such as major health, personal, or family emergencies.

LEARNING RESOURCES

- *Experiencing Religious Meaning Sixth Edition* by Robert C. Monk
- *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn
- Course reader
- Folder for Think Log entries

COURSE CONTENT

CLASS SCHEDULE*

*Note: Class schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.

Readings: ERM=Exploring Religious Meaning, C=Course Reader, Ish=Ishmael

DATE	CLASSROOM TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES	READINGS DUE ON THIS DAY	ASSIGNMENTS DUE ON THIS DAY AND EXAMS TO BE TAKEN ON THIS DAY
8/26 T	Welcome to the class! Introductions; a note on critical reading		Please purchase your texts at the bookstore today if you haven't already
8/28 R	Spiritual Personality Types and Pivotal Values	ERM 1-19; Ish 3-29	
9/2 T	Crash course in World Religions – the Game show; Religious Symbols assigned	ERM 20-51; C 1-24	3X5 Note card on the main points in ERM 20-51
9/4 R	Dimensions of Religious Experience: Myth	ERM 78-81; Ish 33-63	
9/9 T	Dimensions of Religious Experience: Symbols	ERM 67-73; 94-100; C 66-70; Ish 67-122	Religious Symbols Identifications
9/11 R	Dimensions of Religious Experience: Ritual and Magic	ERM 73-78; 81-84; C 26-33; Ish 125-184	Magic Questions 1,3,4 in ERM p.84
9/16 T	Interconnectedness or All is One	ERM 52-66; C 34-64; Ish 187-207	
9/18 R	Ways of Conceiving the Divine	ERM 140-159; C 65; Ish 211-229	
9/23 T	Religion and Nature	ERM 302-311; Ish 233-end	Ishmael Reading Quiz
9/25 R	Religion and Nature	C 72-75	
9/30 T	Religion and Nature	ERM 173-188	
10/2 R	Religion and Nature	C 76-82	
10/7 T	Knowledge, Belief, Authority,	ERM 116-139; C	Reaction Paper to C115-153

	and Tradition	115-153	
10/9 R	Religion and Science	C 83-114	Impact of Science on Myth Answers
10/14 T			Exam 1
10/16 R	Existence of Evil	ERM 160-172	
10/21 T	Problem of Evil Debate	C 154-156; 164	Portfolio Draft
10/23 R	Sin and Guilt	ERM 195-202; C 165; 158-163	
10/28 T	Attitudes toward Death	ERM 203-216	
10/30 R	Salvation and Redemption	ERM 217-230	
11/4 T	NO CLASSES – GO VOTE		
11/6 R	<i>Tibetan Book of the Dead</i>		
11/11 T	NO CLASSES –VETERANS’ DAY		
11/13 R	Freedom and the Self	ERM 188-194	
11/18 T	Medical Ethics	C 184-194	
11/20 R	The ProLife/ProChoice Issue	C 166-183	Medical Ethics Reaction Paper
11/25 T	Interfaith Dialogue	ERM 231-242	
11/27 R	NO CLASSES – GO GIVE THANKS		
12/2 T	Atheism		
12/4 R	Religion and Politics	ERM 268-301; C 195-210	
12/9 T	Portfolio Celebration		Final Portfolio
12/11 R	Review for Final		
			Exam 2

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Make-up Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, and remain for the entire class period. Students who miss class are responsible for material covered in their absence. Consult with peers or the instructor to make up missed work. Make-up assignments are only allowed if you use a NQA coupon. Students are provided with **two ‘No Questions Asked’ coupons** that enable them to turn in a written assignment or make up an exam **up to two weeks past the due date** (the final may only be taken up to three days later). Without the NQA coupon, late work will not be accepted. Coupons may not be shared or replicated.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to act with personal integrity, to respect other students’ opinions and property, and to help create an academic environment in which discussion is encouraged. Students are expected not to engage or tolerate acts of plagiarism, cheating, copying, fabrication of citations, or other acts of academic dishonesty. Students charged with academic dishonesty face serious consequences that range from an F grade for the assignment to a Fail grade for the course.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit can be earned by writing a two-page double spaced reaction paper to a class lecture, discussion, reading, or video or by attending a religious event. Religious events occurring on the island are posted on the website under ‘special announcements.’ Students may write up to **five extra credit papers**. All extra credit must be received by December 9th, 2008.

Cell Phones:

Kindly do not answer phone calls, text message, or play games on your cell phone during class. The instructor urges you to turn off your cell phone during class. The instructor reserves the right to deduct in class participation points from a student's grade if cell phones are in use.

Disabilities Accommodation:

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale Akoakoa 213 for more information.

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU IN THIS CLASS

1. Keep up with the readings! The readings help reinforce the material. By doing the readings before class, you will feel better prepared, will easily follow along with the notes, and overall will have a more enriching educational experience. In addition, by keeping up with the readings, you will be well-prepared for the exams and other assignments.
2. Mark up your textbooks. Highlight key points and ideas. Whenever you are confused or have a question, write a 'Q' next to the sentence in the textbook. Define words you do not understand. (Or if you would like to return your textbook at the end of the semester, keep a separate journal of notes from your readings.)
3. Always take notes in class. Copy down everything that the instructor has on the PowerPoint slides, KeyNote slides, and the board. Very few of us have a photographic memory ;)
4. Ask questions if you don't understand. Tell me to slow down if I am going too fast. Let me know if you're having any problems. I am here to help you ☺ Let me know how I can make this the best educational experience for you!