

Religion 151

Religion and the Meaning of Existence

03 credits

TuTh, 8:15-9:30am

INSTRUCTOR: Sarah Hadmack
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EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 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 essay, you will be required to attend an essay and reading skills workshop before the next written 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

1. Attendance and class participation.
2. Complete Think Log entries in class and at home. Your Think Log entries will be collected randomly throughout the semester. Failure to submit your Think Log when requested results in loss of points toward your final Think Log grade. Late Think Logs will not be accepted unless you had an excused absence the day they were collected. Bring your Think Log to every class.
3. Complete the two essays. For each essay, you will be given three essay choices. Choose the one you like best and write a three-page essay on the topic. Essay writing guidelines and a rubric will be distributed prior to the essay due date.
4. Complete portfolio assignments before the portfolio draft collection date and complete all portfolio entries before the final. 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.
5. Pass the reading quizzes.
6. Complete the reading assignments.
7. Come to class prepared and with an open mind.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

Two essays (15% each)	30%
Think Log, participation, and attendance	20%
Reading Quizzes	20%
Portfolio	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

SCHEDULE

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

- Jan. 15 : Welcome to the class! Please purchase your texts today
 17 : Dimensions of Religious Experience: Myth; E67-68,78-81; C(Emergence of Mankind, Campbell)
 22 : Dimensions of Religious Experience: Symbols; E68-73, 94-100; Ish3-29; Reading Quiz 1 handed out
 24 : Dimensions of Religious Experience: Ritual; E73-78; C(Importance of Rites, Campbell); Ish33-63
 29 : Cases of Religious Experience: Vedanta; E20-25, 151; C(One City, Nichtern); Ish67-122
 31 : Cases of Religious Experience: Tao; E30-35; C(Stripping Down to the I, de Mello); Ish125-184; Reading Quiz 2 handed out
- Feb. 05 : **Reading Quiz 1 due**; Cases of Religious Experience: Zen; E25-30, 55-58; C(Zen, Campbell); Ish187-207
 07 : Cases of Religious Experience: St Theresa & St. Francis; E35-42, 61-63; Ish211-229; Essay 1 handed out
 12 : Cases of Religious Experience: Muhammad; E43-51; Ish233-263
 14 : **Reading Quiz 2 due**; Cases of Religious Experience: Muhammad (video)
 19 : Religion and Nature; E302-311; C(Monday Night Hunters, Sagan)
 21 : **Essay 1 due**; Religion and Nature; C(The World that Came in the Mail, Sagan)
 26 : Religion and Nature; E173-188
 28 : Religion and Nature; C(Religion and Science, Sagan)
- March 04 : Knowledge, Belief, Authority, and Tradition; C(Impact Science on Myth, Campbell; Truth, de Mello); Reading Quiz 3 handed out
 06 : Knowledge, Belief, Authority, and Tradition; E116-139; C(Whose Mind, Reynolds)
 11 : The Problem of Evil; E160-172
 13 : The Problem of Evil; C(All's Right with the World, de Mello)
 18 : **Portfolio drafts due**
 20 : **Reading Quiz 3 due**; Sin, Guilt, Suffering; E195-202; C(Four Steps to Wisdom, de Mello)
 21-30: HOLIDAY: Spring Break
- April 01 : Perspective and Perceptions of Time; E312-330; C(Cosmic Calendar, Sagan)
 03 : Festivals; Reading Quiz 4 handed out
 08 : Ways of Conceiving the Divine; E140-159; Essay 2 handed out
 10 : Attitudes toward Death; E203-210
 15 : Attitudes toward Death; E211-216
 17 : The Pro Life/Pro Choice Debate; C(Abortion, Sagan)
 22 : **Reading Quiz 4 due**; Atheism and Agnostism; E188-194; C(A Deeply Religious Non-Believer and The God Hypothesis, Dawkins)
 24 : Comparative Myth; C(Mythologies of War and Peace, Campbell; Croesus and Cassandra, Sagan)
 29 : **Essay 2 due**; Religious Traditions and Social Stability/Change; E268-301
- May 01 : Religious Traditions and Social Stability/Change
 06 : **Portfolio due**

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 a quiz late. Without the NQA coupon, late work will not be accepted. Coupons may not be shared or replicated. Two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter.

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 May 5th, 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.

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.