

REL 297 Special Topics in Religion – Sacred Places
TuTh 8:15am – 9:30am
3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: Sarah Hadmack
OFFICE: Palanakila 140
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 10:30-11:20am, TuTh 12:40-1:20pm
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EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2009

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

Students will investigate important topics in the study of religion. A specific course description will be printed in the schedule of classes. WCC: DH Fall 2009 Special Topic – Sacred Places

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times

No special activities are required outside of class time.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Identify the important concepts and facts associated with the topic under examination.
2. Explain cause and effect relationships in connection to the topic discussed.
3. Compare and contrast various religions' ideas of the topic.
4. Relate the topic to contemporary events.

COURSE TASKS

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

- ✎ Reading Quizzes (RQs) will be taken in the beginning of class and should not take more than 15 minutes to complete. Quizzes are open notes, open book, timed and cannot be made up, regardless of reason. Copies of the course textbook and course reader are on reserve at the WCC library. Hold on to your reading quizzes once they are graded and returned to you. They will help you with your portfolio entries.
- 🏠 Complete two group presentations on Sacred Places.
 - First group presentation: You will be given an assigned group and topic on which to present.
 - Second group presentation: You can select your own group for the second presentation as well as the topic on which you wish to present. The topic should be something that we have not covered in depth already. I will provide you with a list of possible topics but feel free to select something else as well. Part of your own grade for the second presentation entails responding to other groups' presentations in writing.
- ✎ Complete portfolio assignments before the portfolio draft collection date and complete all portfolio entries before the final collection date. A guideline for the portfolio will be distributed early in the semester.
- 📁 Complete a variety of in-class activities (examples: think logs, card swaps, webbing, debates, flashcard 'quiz,' movers and shakers, pair square, popcorn reading, 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**.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

Portfolio Draft.....	10%
Portfolio Final.....	20%
Reading Quizzes.....	30%
Group Presentations (15% each).....	30%
In class assignments and attendance.....	10%
	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

 *Sacred Place* edited by Jean Holm and John Bowker

 Course Reader

CLASS SCHEDULE*

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

DATE	CLASSROOM TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES	READINGS DUE ON THIS DAY	ASSIGNMENTS DUE ON THIS DAY AND RQs TO BE TAKEN ON THIS DAY
8/25 T	1. Welcome to the class ☺ 2. Introductions		Please purchase your texts today if you haven't already.
8/27 R	1. So what is it exactly that makes something sacred?		
9/1 T	1. Those are Some Big Stones! - Stonehenge and other places that 'rock' in England 2. Assigning you to your first group presentation	CR 2-7	
9/3 R	Excellence in Egypt! – Pyramids, Karnak Temple, and more		
9/8 T	Egypt continued – the Nile		
9/10 R	Christianity – Churches and Cathedrals: Lourdes, St. Anne de Beapre and more	Holm 33-61	RQ1
9/15 T	Christianity continued	CR 37-53	RQ2

9/17 R	Hinduism – iconic Taj Mahal and exquisite Ellora caves	Holm 62-87	RQ3
9/22 T	Hinduism continued – sacred city and purifying river goddess: Benares and the Ganges	CR 20-36	RQ4
9/24 R	Jainism – sacred mandirs		
9/29 T	Sikhism 1. Group Presentation – Gurus and the Golden Temple in Amritsar 2. Gurdwara Sis Ganj	Holm 149-173	RQ5
10/1 R	Islam 1. Group Presentation – Madinah and the Masjid al Nabawi 2. Group Presentation – Dome of the Rock	Holm 88-114	RQ6

10/6 T	Islam continued		Portfolio Drafts Due
10/8 R	1. Group Presentation – Judaism and Jerusalem 2. More on Jerusalem	Holm 115-148; CR 8-19	RQ7
10/13 T	Judaism continued and Mt. Sinai		
10/15 R	Buddhism – pilgrimage routes	CR 54-78	RQ8
10/20 T	1. Buddhism continued – mandalas and meditation 2. Select your second group presentation members and start brainstorming on a topic	Holm 8-32	

10/22 R	Chinese Religions – Forbidden City and more	Holm 174-186	RQ9
10/27 T	Chinese Religions continued – Sacred Mountains	CR 79-102	RQ10
10/29 R	Japanese Religions – Mt. Fuji, temples, and more	Holm 187-202	RQ11
11/3 T	Group Presentation – Machu Picchu		
11/5 R	1. Group Presentation – Ayers Rock 2. Devil's Tower		Submit second presentation topics for approval
11/10 T	Serpent Mound and Sedona		

11/12 R	Hawaiians and Sacred Place	Handout	Be working on your final portfolio and 2nd presentation this month!
11/17 T	Mayan Tikal		
11/19 R	Greece and Rome – Delphi, the Parthenon, the Vatican, and more	Handout	
11/24 T	Greece and Rome continued		
11/26 R	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK		

12/1 T	Portfolio Celebration		Final Portfolios due
12/3 R	Group Presentations		
12/8 T	Group Presentations		
12/10 R	Group Presentations		
12/15 T	Final Thoughts		

Additional Information

Attendance 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. For every three classes missed, the final grade is lowered by one letter grade.

Make-up Policy:

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 an assignment **up to two weeks past the due date**. 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, class discussion, or by attending a religious event, watching a movie that centers on sacred places, or reading an article or book on sacred places. Religious events occurring on the island are posted on the website under 'special announcements.' Students may write up to **five extra credit papers**. Each paper is worth 2% of the final grade. All papers must be **two full, typed pages**. No more than two extra credit papers per student will be accepted during the last two weeks of classes. All extra credit must be received by December 10, 2009.

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 consequence for cell phone use is _____
(students will vote on a policy during the first week of classes).

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!