Religion 150: Introduction to Major World Religions
MW 1:00-2:15pm
Pālanakila 225

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Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:30pm
or by appointment

Windward Community College Mission Statement

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With special commitment to support the access and educational needs of native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment – inspiring students to excellence.

Catalog Description

Introduction to the world’s major religions: Indigenous, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. WCC: FGC

Global Multicultural Perspective Focus Hallmarks

1. Provide students with a large-scale analysis of human development and change over time.

2. Analyze the development of human societies and their cultural traditions through time in different regions (including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania) and using multiple perspectives.

3. Offer a broad, integrated analysis of cultural, economic, political, scientific, and/or social development that recognizes the diversity of human societies and their cultural traditions.

4. Examine processes of cross-cultural interaction and exchange that have linked the world’s peoples through time while recognizing diversity.

5. Include at least one component on Hawaiian, Pacific, or Asian societies and the cultural traditions.

6. Engage students in the study and analysis of writings, narratives, texts, artifacts, and/or practices that represent the perspective of different societies and cultural traditions.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the following elements or dimensions: origin, doctrines, ethics, sacred literature, important figures/founders, rituals, worship, and institutions for each of the world’s major religious traditions.

2. Identify similarities and difference between two or more religions on the basis of the aforementioned dimensions.
3. Examine the relationship between religion and culture/society
4. Question and think critically.

**Assignments/Grading**

Exams (3) - 50 points each, 150 pts total

Workbook Notes (5) - 10 pts per check, 50 pts total

Class Participation - 30 pts total

Think Log Prompts (2) - 10 pts each, 20 pts total

Quizzes (5) - 10 pts each, 50 pts total

**Course Tasks**

Workbook Notes: Notes are to be taken in the assigned workbook (*The Student’s Guide to the Study of World Religions*). These notes will be checked five times throughout the semester. Students will receive one of the following grades: ✔+ (full credit), ✔− (partial credit), or ✔✗ (no credit). The sections labeled “Review” and “Discussion” must also be completed, and will be presented and discussed in class.

Think Log Prompts: A minimum of two papers are required based on the Think Log Prompts located in the back of your Workbook. Each paper is worth 10 points, and is expected to reflect original thought as well as an understanding of the subject. More than two papers can be submitted for additional points, but no more than 20 points can be achieved. Papers are due on the last day that religion is covered in class. Paper requirements are: 2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12pt font in Times or Times New Roman.

Quizzes: A total of five quizzes will be given throughout the semester, totaling 50 points. Quizzes will be announced the class before.

Exams: A total of three exams, worth 50 points each, will be given throughout the semester. These exams are not cumulative, and will only be based on material covered from the previous exam up until that point. The exams will not be taken in class, but at the Testing Center at the Library Learning Commons, room 228. You will complete both exams on your own time, under supervision of the LLC. Please remember to bring your Student ID and a pen or pencil. Make up exams require instructor approval (with valid excuse) and must be arranged before the exam is administered.

Extra credit: The extra credit assignment is available to all students and is worth up to 15 points. Requirements: Pick an approved topic, one per student (no repeats, first come first served), and give a 3-4 minute presentation (Powerpoint is a plus!). Bibliography required. Presentations are due on the penultimate class of the semester.

Readings: Finish the assigned readings as scheduled. Readings that are listed are to be read by the following class.
Learning Resources
Both of the required texts can be found at the WCC bookstore, or on reserve at the WCC Library.

*Think: Religion* by Roy Robson (1st or 2nd edition)
*The Student’s Guide to the Study of World Religions 3rd edition* by Sarah Hadmack

Student Conduct
All students are expected to follow the University of Hawaii’s Student Code of Conduct. This includes refraining from distracting or disruptive behavior in the classroom, including but not limited to: smoking (including e-cigarettes/personal vaporizers), eating, and cell phone or computer use not pertaining to class material. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism of coursework, will result in disciplinary action, as well as a nullification of grade for that assignment. For this course basic rules of etiquette and common courtesy will apply: be punctual and polite, show respect to your fellow classmates and instructor, and silence cell phones and media devices.

Disability Statement
*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 235-7488, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.*

Class Schedule
8/25-Introduction & syllabus
Assignment: Read Chapters 1 & 2

8/27-Religion Terms and Definitions
Assignment: None

9/1-Labor Day-no class!
Assignment: Read Indigenous

9/3-Indigenous Religions
Assignment: Read Hawaiian religion handout (Laulima)

9/8 Hawaiian Religion
Assignment: Read ch. 3

9/10-Hinduism
Assignment: Read ch.4

9/15-Hinduism
Assignment: Watch *Sita Sings the Blues* (Laulima)

9/17-Hinduism
Assignment: Read Jainism Handouts

9/22-Jainism
Assignment: None
9/24 - Sikhism
   Assignment: Watch *The Life of the Buddha* (Laulima)

9/29 - Buddhism
   Assignment: Read ch. 5

10/1 - Buddhism
   Assignment: Read ch. 6

10/6 - Buddhism
   Assignment: None

10/8 - Shinto
   Assignment: Read ch. 7

10/13 - Daoism
   Assignment: Read ch. 8

10/15 - Confucianism
   Assignment: None

10/20 - Modern Chinese Religion
   Assignment: Read Zoroastrianism Handout

10/22 - Zoroastrianism
   Assignment: Study Guide

10/27 - Review for Midterm*
   Assignment: Read ch. 9

10/29 - Judaism
   Assignment: Read ch. 10

11/3 - Judaism
   Assignment: None

11/5 - Judaism
   Assignment: Read ch. 11

11/10 - Christianity
   Assignment: Read ch. 12

11/12 - Christianity *Deadline to sign up for extra credit project*
   Assignment: None

11/17 - Christianity
   Assignment: Read ch. 13

11/19 - Islam
   Assignment: Read ch. 14
11/24- Islam
   Assignment: Read Sufi Writings (Laulima)

11/26- Islam
   Assignment: Read Baha’i handout (Laulima)

12/1- Baha’i
   Assignment: NRM Handout

12/3- New Religious Movements
   Assignment: Work on Extra Credit!

12/8- NRM & Extra Credit Presentations
   Assignment: Study Guide

12/10-Last day! Exam Review