RELIGION 150: INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD’S MAJOR RELIGIONS

3 Credits (CRN 64440)
Weekly Asynchronous Online

INSTRUCTOR: Amanda Candēns
OFFICE HOURS (times students may drop in for help): Flexible by appointment.
EMAIL: candens@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2018

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 a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide the Koʻolau region of Oʻahu and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION


COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designated as a Global and Multicultural Perspectives course. Students will gain a sense of human development from prehistory to modern times through consideration of the religious narratives and artifacts from diverse cultures. In particular, the course is designed to introduce you to the history, teachings and practices of some of the major religions of the world, including traditions practiced in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. We will examine these traditions from a variety of perspectives, paying particular attention to the issue of religious diversity, as well as the transmission of traditions across cultures. Considering both “insider” and “outsider” perspectives, we will critically examine the way the different religious traditions present themselves, while attempting to approach them from a nonpartisan viewpoint.

The objective of this course is to increase the scope of your understanding of an array of religious traditions and to train you to better recognize differences and similarities between and among various religious approaches. This may contribute to deepening the appreciation of one’s own religious background, if one has one, and to developing curiosity for various spiritual paths followed by people both historically and in the present-day. The assigned readings, videos, assignments and personal initiative in investigating this topic should combine to enhance one’s awareness of the central role religions played and still play in humanity’s quest for meaning, understanding and happiness.
Global Multicultural Perspectives 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 their cultural traditions.

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

COURSE LEARNING GOALS*

As a result of taking this course, students can expect to attain the following 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 the similarities and differences 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.

*Students may vary in their competency levels on these outcomes, and they can expect to achieve these outcomes only if they honor all course policies, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students.

COURSE TASKS

After you register for the course, a REL-150 tab will be automatically generated into your Laulima account, which can be accessed at https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal. All course requirements are listed on weekly lesson tabs in Laulima. Each weekly learning module begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. You must log in at least TWICE a week in order to pass this class. Your first log in must be anytime between Monday and Wednesday. Your second log in must be anytime between Thursday and Sunday. Various assignments throughout the course will be due each Wednesday by 9:00pm HST. Weekly quizzes are always due on Sundays by 9:00pm HST. There will be no makeups allowed after the due dates and times. Each lesson is broken down into several required parts:

- Readings
- Videos
- Assignments
  - Forum posts and responses
  - Individual and group projects

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• Quizzes
  o All quiz questions are provided in advance through study guides.
  o You have three attempts to take each quiz before the assigned due date and time.

Course requirements also include a cumulative final exam. All possible questions on the final exam will be provided in advance in each of the lesson tabs.

Please familiarize yourself with Laulima and email me as soon as possible if you encounter any difficulties. Read the “Start Here!” tab in Laulima BEFORE beginning Lesson 1 for important course orientation information.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Percent of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Quizzes</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Discussion forum posts</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Individual and group projects</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Final exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Total: 100%

*Final letter grades will be determined at the end of the semester based on the following:*

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<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
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<tr>
<td>100-90%</td>
<td>89-80%</td>
<td>79-70%</td>
<td>69-60%</td>
<td>59% or below</td>
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N= The ‘N’ grade indicates that the student has worked conscientiously, participated 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

- **Internet access:** It is recommended that you have high-speed internet access in order to avoid technical difficulties in fully completing this course. This is particularly important when taking online timed quizzes and exams. Please click on the link Things That All Laulima Users Should Know to verify that you have the necessary hardware, internet connection, browser, and plugins in order to access the course and all its resources.

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• **UH email account:** If you do not already have your @hawaii.edu email account set up, please contact Technical Support (listed below) to complete your set up. **ALL assignment reminders will be sent to that address.** Please do not correspond through alternative email addresses. This is the address where I will be corresponding with you directly so remember to **check your email daily.** If you have questions or concerns throughout the semester, feel free to email me anytime. I strive to respond to all emails within **24 hours.**

• **Webcam, microphone, and headphones or earbuds:** There will be select assignments throughout the course that require usage of your webcam and microphone. These assignments enhance the social dynamics of the course which lead to greater achievements of the student learning outcomes. Headphones or earbuds will be necessary for required projects that utilize an internal web conferencing software that students will collaborate in for select projects.

### IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ONLINE COURSES

Success in the online learning environment is dependent on specific personality characteristics. Online classes are not for everyone. **You must be self-disciplined, organized, focused, thoroughly read and follow all directions well, and have good time management skills.**

Carefully read the following link [Is Distance Learning For Me?](#) and take the [Self Assessment Quiz](#) located at the end to see if online learning is right for you. This course will be conducted entirely in [Laulima](#). If you have not taken an online course using this system, please go through the links to tutorials provided below.

- [Laulima Orientation*](#)
- [Laulima Student Tutorials](#)
- [Student FAQs](#)

*Please note the video tutorial was provided for UHWO students however, the explanations are applicable for our class as well.

It is essential that students have regular, reliable access to a desktop computer or laptop with a strong internet connection. **Technical issues are not acceptable reasons for missing or late assignments.** Knowing when all assignments and quizzes are due and completing them before their deadline is a critical component to passing this course.

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you encounter any problems with Laulima, please contact UH computer support services

- **Website:** [ITS Help Desk](#)
- **Email:** help@hawaii.edu
- **Phone:** (808) 956-8883
- **Hours:** Sunday through Saturday: 7 AM – 11 PM

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Windward CC also offers direct technical support services to students and can be reached at:

- **Email:** [wcc-help@hawaii.edu](mailto:wcc-help@hawaii.edu)
- **Phone:** (808) 235-7314

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Dates (Mon-Sun)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Requirements/Deadlines Due by 9pm</th>
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| 1      | Aug 20 - Aug 26 | Introduction & Judaism Part 1 | Online learning survey due Wed.  
Lesson 1 Quiz due Sun. |
| 2      | Aug 27 - Sept 02 | Judaism Part 2 | Introductory video post due Wed.  
Lesson 2 Quiz due Sun. |
| 3      | Sept 03 - Sept 09 | Christianity | Response post due Wed.  
Lesson 3 Quiz due Sun. |
| 4      | Sept 10 - Sept 16 | Islam Part 1 | Lessons 1-5 class discussion due Wed.  
Lesson 4 Quiz due Sun. |
| 5      | Sept 17 - Sept 23 | Islam Part 2 | Discussion response due Wed.  
Lesson 5 Quiz due Sun. |
Lesson 6 Quiz due Sun. |
| 7      | Oct 01 - Oct 07 | Hinduism Part 2 | Creative project proposals due Wed.  
Lesson 7 Quiz due Sun. |
| 8      | Oct 08 - Oct 14 | Buddhism Part 1 | Lessons 6-9 class discussion due Wed.  
Lesson 8 Quiz due Sun. |
Lesson 9 Quiz due Sun. |
| 11     | Oct 29 - Nov 04 | Religions of Oceania | Group project due Wed.  
Lesson 11 Quiz due Sun. |
Lesson 12 Quiz due Sun. |
| 13     | Nov 12 - Nov 18 | Chinese Religions Part 2 | Lessons 10-14 discussion due Wed.  
Lesson 13 Quiz due Sun. |
Lesson 14 Quiz due Sun. |
| 15     | Nov 26 - Dec 02 | African Religions | Creative project presentation due Wed.  
Lesson 15 Quiz due Sun. |
### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The [University of Hawai‘i Online Learning Academy (OLA)](https://ola.hawaii.edu) provides FREE tutoring services for all University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and Community College Students. Students can schedule an appointment Monday through Saturday: 8am to 10pm for online help with their writing assignments. All written material posted in this course should be of college level writing skill.

- MySuccess: Students may be referred for extra help or advising through MySuccess. Students can also explore resources at [MySuccess.Hawaii.edu](https://my.success.hawaii.edu) and through the WCC website page, [windward.hawaii.edu/MySuccess](http://windward.hawaii.edu/MySuccess).

### DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS

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 ‘Ākoakoa 213 for more information.

### TITLE IX

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination; sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, including harassment based on actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; sexual assault; sexual exploitation; domestic violence; dating violence; and stalking. For more information regarding your rights under Title IX, please visit: [https://windward.hawaii.edu/Title_IX/](https://windward.hawaii.edu/Title_IX/).

Windward Community College is committed to the pursuit of equal education. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination or gender-based violence, Windward CC has resources to support you. To speak with someone confidentially, contact Karla Silva-Park, Mental Health Counselor, at 808-235-7468 or karlas@hawaii.edu or Kaahu Alo, Designated Confidential Advocate for Students, at 808-235-7354 or kaahualo@hawaii.edu. To make a formal report, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 808-235-7393 or wcctix@hawaii.edu.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Work submitted by a student must be the student’s own work. The work of others should be explicitly marked, such as through use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author. Students are expected to act with personal integrity, to respect other students’ opinions, 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. Plagiarism is treated seriously in this course. If you are

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quoting someone verbatim, then you must use quotation marks and cite the source immediately after the quotation in parenthetical form, (author’s last name, page number). Summarizations should also be cited. If you are unsure whether or not you are citing sources correctly, please ask me. Students can upload papers to http://www.TurnItIn.com to have papers checked for authenticity, highlighting where the paper potentially fails to appropriately reference sources.

In this class, students who commit academic dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism will have the following consequence(s):

Students will receive a failing grade for plagiarized assignments.

All cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

**ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

Location: Alakai 121  
Phone: 808-235-7422  
Email: wccaa@hawaii.edu