

## Religion 150: Introduction to Major World Religions

3 credits

W 8:30-9:45am

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Sarah Hadmack  
**OFFICE:** Palanakila 140  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:00pm  
Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm  
and by appointment  
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**TELEPHONE:** 236-9140  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Spring 2014

### 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 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 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.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

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.

## METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

This course is structured around the following methods of instruction:

- Higher order thinking: class time will be devoted mainly to discussion and activities, both of which focus on problem-solving, analysis, evaluation, and critical and creative thinking (the top parts of the pyramid.) Therefore, reading, understanding, and identifying the major terms and ideas for each religious tradition must be done at home while reading the textbook and the professor's notes.
- Collaborative learning: this course consists of many in-class group activities (see examples under 'Course Tasks'). Part of the philosophy behind this is that studies have shown that we learn more when exposed to diverse viewpoints, we challenge ourselves when we have to articulate and sometimes defend our knowledge, and group activities develop a sense of community and responsibility for one another. Three heads are better than one!
- Flip the classroom: this course 'flips' the traditional educational model in that you will receive the professor's notes to read at home and will complete assignments (called 'homework' in other courses) in class. The rationale behind this concept is that some assignments are better completed in class where the instructor can advise the student, answer questions as they arise, and facilitate



Collaborative learning is when students work in groups to solve a problem, create a product, and/or consider the meaning of an issue.



student success.

## ONLINE SUPPORT

This course is a hybrid course meaning that half of the course is online and half is face-to-face. For any online problems you encounter, please contact the following:

### Computer Support from Windward CC

- General questions- email [wcc-help@hawaii.edu](mailto:wcc-help@hawaii.edu) or call 235-7314
- Brian Richardson- email [richards@hawaii.edu](mailto:richards@hawaii.edu) or call 235-7416

### Computer Support from the UH System

- Email [help@hawaii.edu](mailto:help@hawaii.edu) or call 956-8883
- Information Technology Services <http://www.hawaii.edu/its/>

### Course Support from Windward CC

- Diane Sakai, Reference Desk Librarian- email [wccref@hawaii.edu](mailto:wccref@hawaii.edu) or call 235-7338
- Ann Lemke, Counselor- email [lemke@hawaii.edu](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu) or call 235-7448

## COURSE TASKS

As a hybrid course you will complete some course tasks outside of class time through Lulima, such as reading the professor's notes, reading the textbook, watching films, and taking quizzes. Other course tasks will be completed in class, such as discussion and activities.

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

- ✍ Take notes in the workbook (*The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*) while reading the textbook (*Think: Religion*) and the professor's notes. The professor's notes are available under the 'Resources' link on Lulima. Most people learn and remember very little from merely reading. However, writing down the main points of what you read greatly increases learning and your ability to remember the information. Therefore, it is imperative to your academic success that you write down the notes in your workbook. Your workbook serves as an organizational tool, both for in class materials and textbook readings.
  - You will be called on **randomly** at the **start** of certain class days in which workbook notes are due. Workbook notes are checked **during the first five minutes of class**.
  - You will receive a check-plus (full credit), check (partial credit), or check-minus (no credit) on your workbook notes. If your name was called and you were absent or late, you will receive a check-minus for the homework unless you had emailed or called me **prior** to the start of class to tell me you couldn't make it that day.
  - Please answer the review questions at the back of each chapter of your workbook. However, please wait to answer the discussion questions in class.

- You most likely will only be checked four times during the semester. Considering that workbook notes constitute 20% of your course grade, it is extremely important to complete the assigned pages and to arrive to class on time. Please be advised that ‘workbook notes’ cannot be made up, regardless of reason.
- 📖 Complete timed quizzes on Laulima under the “Tasks, Tests, and Surveys” link. You may use your notes and textbook during the timed quizzes. Before taking any of the quizzes, please be sure that you’ve already read all notes and textbook chapters corresponding to that quiz. For example, before taking the Hinduism quiz, first read the professor’s Hinduism notes and chapters 3 and 4 of your textbook. All quizzes must be taken **by Friday night at 11:55pm**. Follow the class schedule on this syllabus to know when to take each quiz.
- 📁 Complete a variety of in-class activities including card swaps, webs, sentence stems, movers and shakers, pair square, popcorn reading, role cards, role play, round table, silent Socratic dialogue, toss a ‘test,’ crossword puzzles, Venn diagrams, word searches, art symbolism identification, game shows, etc.
  - These assignments enhance analysis, synthesis, and critical thinking skills. They also enable you to reflect on themes in class and comprehend the topics in a more sophisticated (and fun!) manner.
  - Many of these activities will be completed in groups typically consisting of 3-4 members. I acknowledge 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 plus mark indicating full credit, a check mark indicating partial credit, or a check minus mark indicating no credit.
  - Since group assignments require being present for class, some of these assignments cannot be made up, regardless of reason, if class is missed. It is the your responsibility to see the professor to get missed material.
- ✂ Complete the three exams. Exams will be based on material covered in class and the course readings. Exams will be taken at the Testing Center inside the library. You are allowed to use a 4x6 note card during the exams.
  - Exam 1 covers Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism.
  - Exam 2 covers Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and East Asian Buddhism.
  - Exam 3 covers Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- 📖 Complete the writing assignment.
  - You will work on three writing assignments in class. Please choose one of those three to polish and submit. You will be given writing guidelines and a rubric in class. See the course schedule regarding deadlines. The writing assignment should be uploaded to the “Assignments” link on Laulima in a .doc or .docx file type.

## ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

### Grades will be based on the following:

-Three Exams (10% each).....	30%
-Workbook Notes.....	20%
-Quizzes.....	20%
-Class Participation as measured by Class Activities .....	20%
-Writing Assignments.....	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


Both of the texts below are available on reserve at the WCC library and for purchase at the WCC bookstore. Please bring both of these books to every class:

 *Think: Religion* by Roy Robson (the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)


 *The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Sarah Hadmack

Also, please make sure you have the following for the online portion of the course:

 Firefox web browser (this works best with Laulima) <http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>

 a version of Microsoft Word (you will receive feedback through Word comment bubbles for your writing assignments) You don't have to buy MS Word; you can use it at the library.

 PDF viewer (for reading the professor's notes) <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

 VLC Media Player (for viewing films) <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

## CLASS SCHEDULE\*

\*Note:

1. All readings listed as "Notes" can be accessed on Laulima through the "Resources" link on the homepage.
2. With the exception of the quizzes, which are always due on Friday before 11:55pm, please complete the tasks **in the order in which they are listed.**
3. Class schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.

1/16

1. Welcome to the class!
2. Religion Survey
3. Syllabus and introduction to the course

Before 1/23

1. READ: Chs. 1 & 2
2. READ: Introduction Notes
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 5- top of 9

1/23

1. Discussion of introductory materials

Before 1/30

1. TAKE: Syllabus Quiz
2. READ: Hinduism Notes
3. READ: Ch. 3
4. COMPLETE: Wkbk 15-23 (as much as you can, some parts will be filled in next week after reading Ch. 4 and watching the film)

1/30

1. Hinduism

Before 2/5

1. READ: Ch. 4
2. WATCH: *Shortcut to Nirvana* (a link to the film will be emailed via Laulima)
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 15-23 (further complete with the new knowledge from Ch. 4 and film)
4. TAKE: Hinduism Quiz
5. READ: Jainism Notes
6. COMPLETE: Wkbk 28-31

2/5

1. Activity: Hinduism web
2. Writing Assignment: write an informative brochure on two of the Hindu goddesses
3. Jainism

Before 2/12

1. WRITING OPTION: If you chose the informative brochure as your required writing assignment, then please complete it and upload it to Laulima using the "Assignments" link.
2. READ: Textbook reading PDF on Jainism (in the Resources link)
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 28-31 (add additional information from the new reading)
4. TAKE: Jainism Quiz
5. READ: Indian Buddhism Notes
6. READ: Ch. 5
7. COMPLETE: Wkbk 34- top of 38 (as much as you can, some parts will be filled in next week after reading Ch. 6)

2/12

1. Jainism discussion continued
2. Game: Life and Teachings of Buddha Game Show

Before 2/19

1. READ: Ch. 6
2. COMPLETE: Wkbk 34- top of 41 (add additional information from Ch. 6)
3. TAKE: Indian Buddhism Quiz
4. READ: Sikhism Notes
5. REREAD: your syllabus

2/19

1. Indian Buddhism discussion
2. Activity: Jainism and Indian Buddhism cross word puzzle
3. Sikhism

Before 2/26

1. READ: Textbook reading PDF on Sikhism (in the Resources link)
2. COMPLETE: Wkbk 44-48
3. TAKE: Sikhism Quiz

2/26

1. Sikhism discussion continued
2. Game: 'Toss a Test' Review for Exam 1

Before 3/5

1. TAKE: Exam 1 at the Testing Center before it closes on Monday 3/3. Bring a 4x6in card of your notes to the exam.
2. READ: Daoism Notes
3. READ: Ch. 7
4. COMPLETE: Wkbk 51-54

3/5

1. Game: Life and Teachings of Laozi Game Show
2. Daoism and Confucianism discussion

Before 3/12

1. READ: Confucianism Notes
2. READ: Ch. 8
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 57- top of 61
4. TAKE: Daoism AND Confucianism Quizzes
5. READ: Shinto Notes
6. COMPLETE: Wkbk 65- top of 69

3/12

1. Daoism and Confucianism discussion continued
2. Activity: Daoism and Confucianism Scriptural Passage Identifications
3. Shinto

Before 3/19

1. READ: Textbook reading PDF on Shinto (in the Resources link)

2. TAKE: Shinto Quiz
3. READ: Mahayana/ East Asian Buddhism Notes
4. COMPLETE: Wkbk 71- top of 76

3/19

1. Mahayana/ East Asian Buddhism (Chinese and Japanese Buddhism)
2. Activity: Sectarian slogan/jingle
3. Writing Assignment: Magazine article on a Mahayana Buddhist sect

Before 3/26

1. TAKE: Mahayana Buddhism Quiz

3/26

NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

Before 4/2

1. WRITING OPTION: If you chose the magazine article as your required writing assignment, then please complete it and upload it to Lualima using the "Assignments" link.
2. REVIEW: Study your notes on Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Mahayana/East Asian Buddhism

4/2

1. Mahayana/ East Asian Buddhism discussion
2. Game: Review for Exam 2

Before 4/9

1. TAKE: Exam 2 at the Testing Center before it closes on Monday 4/7. Bring a 4x6in card of your notes to the exam.
2. READ: Zoroastrianism Notes
3. READ: Textbook reading PDF on Zoroastrianism (in the Resources link)
4. COMPLETE: Wkbk 79- top of 83

4/9

1. Zoroastrianism discussion
2. Writing Assignment: Editorial on Zoroastrian beliefs on death and the afterlife and funeral practices

Before 4/16

1. TAKE: Zoroastrianism Quiz
2. WRITING OPTION: If you chose the editorial as your required writing assignment, then please complete it and upload it to Lualima using the "Assignments" link.
3. READ: Judaism Notes
4. READ: Chs. 9 & 10
5. COMPLETE: Wkbk 85- top of 94

4/16

1. Judaism
2. Game: Judaism movers and shakers



Before 4/23

1. WATCH: *Genocide* (a link to the film will be emailed via Lulima)
2. TAKE: Judaism Quiz
3. READ: Christianity Notes
4. READ: Ch. 11
5. COMPLETE: Wkbk 97- top of 107 (as much as you can, some parts will be filled in next week after reading Ch. 12)

4/23

1. *Genocide* film discussion
2. Game: Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ Game Show
3. Christianity discussion

Before 4/30

1. READ: Ch. 12
2. COMPLETE: Wkbk 97- top of 107 (add additional information from Ch. 12)
3. TAKE: Christianity Quiz
4. READ: Islam Notes
5. READ: Ch. 13
6. COMPLETE: Wkbk 111-117 (as much as you can, some parts will be filled in next week after reading Ch. 14)

4/30

1. Christianity discussion continued
2. Activity: Round Table Talk on Christianity
3. Game: Muhammad Puzzle Game
4. Islam

Before 5/7

1. READ: Ch. 14
2. WATCH: *Inside Mecca* (a link to the film will be emailed via Lulima)
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 111-117 (add additional information from Ch. 14 and the film)
4. TAKE: Islam Quiz

5/7

1. Islam discussion continued
2. Game: Four Corners Review for Exam 3

Finals Week

1. TAKE: Exam 3 at the Testing Center before it closes on \_\_\_\_\_.  
Bring a 4x6in card of your notes to the exam.
2. ENJOY: your summer! Thanks for being in class! I hope you learned a lot 😊

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Attendance Policy:

Since we only meet once per week, it is extremely important that you attend all classes. You are expected to 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 professor to cover what you missed. For every three classes missed, the final grade is lowered by one letter grade.

#### Make-up Policy:

Students are provided with **three ‘No Questions Asked’ (NQA) coupons** that enable them to make up a quiz, writing assignment, exam, absence, on in-class activity **up to one week past the due date**. Without the NQA coupon, late work will not be accepted. Coupons may not be shared or replicated. Unused coupons will be counted towards extra credit.

#### 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. Plagiarism is treated seriously in this course. If you are 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). Students charged with academic dishonesty face serious consequences that range from an F grade for the assignment to a F grade for the course.

#### Extra Credit:

Extra credit can be earned by turning in responses to the Think Log prompts. You will see a Think Log prompt for every religious tradition at the back of your workbook (*The Student’s Guide to the Study of World Religions*). Think Logs are essentially journal prompts. There are no right or wrong responses to Think Log prompts. Think Logs are used to encourage critical thinking, self-analysis, and to reflect on the topics covered in this course. You can earn the full amount of extra credit by typing your responses to six of the Think Log prompts. Each Think Log response should be approximately one full typed page, double-spaced.

#### 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](mailto: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 and note taking! Since the course is set up to discuss the readings in class, if you do not read then you will feel completely lost in class and not have an enriching educational experience. Additionally, by doing the readings and note taking, you will be well prepared for the quizzes and exams.

2. Stay organized. Use a planner! Put important deadlines for assignments from all of your courses into the planner. Create a weekly schedule with your school and work hours. Schedule in blocks of time when you plan to study, read, and take quizzes/exams.
3. 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!