

## Religion 150: Introduction to Major World Religions

3 credits

WWW

13 week course

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Professor Sarah Hadmack
<b>OFFICE:</b>	Palanakila 140
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	TR 8:45-9:50am W 9:00-11:00am
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<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	Fall 2015

### 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.

## ONLINE SUPPORT

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

### 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 TASKS

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

### READING and NOTETAKING:

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 Lualima. 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.

### 📖 REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Please note that there are review questions near the end of every chapter in your workbook (*The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*). Please use the 'Assignments' tab on the left hand column of the homepage to submit your answers. I highly recommend reading these questions prior to reading your textbook and the instructor's notes. **Only four review sets are required**- the first two review question sets (for the Introduction and Hinduism chapters) and any other two of your choice. Our first two subjects/religions in the course are the Introduction to Religion and Hinduism chapters. The answers to these review questions are required in order for me to assess your reading comprehension skills right at the beginning of the semester. If you receive a C or below on these two assignments then you are required to submit eight review sets rather than four. This is not to punish you, but to help you succeed! Exams draw heavily from the review questions so if you want to submit more than the required four review sets please feel free to do so and I will give you feedback.

The answers to the review questions come from the Professor's Notes and the textbook (*Think: Religion*). Simply 'googling' for the answers is not acceptable because 1) it will either provide you with an oversimplified answer that misses the greater context (and thereby understanding!) that the Professor's Notes and textbook provide you with (such as the case with question 5 of the Hinduism review questions- Krishna is actually a form of which Hindu god?) or 2) it will provide you with too much information and it will be difficult to ascertain the most essential part (such as would be the case if you googled question 6 of the Hinduism review questions- What is the caste system and where did it come from?). Therefore, use the Professor's Notes and the textbook to answer the review questions.

### 🗨️ DISCUSSION FORUM:

Please note that there are discussion questions directly following the review questions at the end of every chapter in your workbook (*The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*). For every religious tradition you will post an answer to one of the discussion questions and then reply to two of your classmates' posts. For your post, please use the question you selected as the title of your entry. For your replies, select **two questions other than the one you answered** (hence the need for putting the question as the title of the entry).

For your posts, I am interested in **your personal opinion**. However, please write it in a way that hopefully won't be offensive to someone who has the opposite opinion you do. For example, sentences along these lines: "I believe \_\_\_ and anyone who believes otherwise is an ignorant idiot" are completely unacceptable. Fortunately, I haven't seen that happen. Please write in a respectful manner. Also, whenever possible use religious terms. For example, type 'Quran' instead of 'Muslim Bible' and 'samsara' rather than 'reincarnation.'

Discussion posts and replies are worth the same amount so it is important to complete all three requirements (an answer to one of the discussion questions for that faith and a response to two of your classmates' posts on a different discussion question than the one you chose) for each religious tradition.

Although I will be reading all of the discussion posts and replies I will not respond to every one of your posts. I will, however, respond to the discussion as a whole by emailing the class after the discussion is complete. Please see the 'Resources' link for a rubric on the discussion forum.

#### QUIZZES:

Complete timed quizzes on Laulima under the 'Assignments, 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. Follow the class schedule on this syllabus to know when to take each quiz.

Read the quiz questions carefully. Save often since all questions are on one webpage. Quiz grades are released one week after the due date. Make sure to go back to the quiz and review the correct answers. Exam questions draw heavily from the quizzes.

#### ✓ EXAMS:

Complete the three exams. The course is organized by geographical location of origin of each religious tradition.

- 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.

Exams will be taken online and timed. You have 75 minutes to complete an exam. Although the exams are open book and notes, since they are timed you will not have much free time to rummage through your materials. Study hard for the exams so that you will be prepared. I strongly recommend creating a notecard or review sheet to work from. Do not start an exam without a strong internet connection. **Once started you cannot retake the exam at a later date.**

## ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

### Grades will be based on the following:

-Review Questions (4 sets) .....	25%
-Discussion Forum (posts and replies).....	20%
-Quizzes.....	25%
-Three Exams (10% each) .....	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


Both of the texts below are available on reserve at the WCC library and for purchase at the WCC bookstore.

 *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:

 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" in the schedule can be accessed on Lulima through the 'Resources' link
2. Please complete the tasks **in the order in which they are listed.**
3. Class schedule is subject to change at professor's discretion. Students will be notified of any changes via email.

Tuesday 9/8

1. Welcome to the class!
2. Please read this entire syllabus a couple of times and familiarize yourself with our course features on Lulima.

By Thursday 9/10, 11:55pm:

1. READ: Chs. 1 & 2 of *Think*
2. READ: Introduction Notes (in 'Resources' under 'Professor's Notes')
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 5- top of 9 (in *The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions*)
4. UPLOAD to 'Assignments': your answers to the Introduction Review Questions (near the end of the Introduction chapter in your workbook, *The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions*)
5. POST to 'Forums': a paragraph or two about who you are and your interest in world religions/the course

Before Thursday 9/17, 11:55pm:

1. READ: Hinduism Notes (in 'Resources' under 'Professor's Notes')
2. READ: Chs. 3 and 4 of *Think*
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 15-23 (in *The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions*)

4. UPLOAD to 'Assignments': your answers to the Hinduism Review Questions (found near the end of the Hinduism chapter in your workbook, *The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions*)
5. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Hinduism discussion questions (found in the end of the Hinduism chapter in your workbook *The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions*) The title of your post should be the question you selected.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected.

Before Thursday 9/24, 11:55pm:

1. WATCH: *Shortcut to Nirvana* (a link will be emailed to you)
2. TAKE: Hinduism Quiz (go to the 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)
3. READ: Jainism Notes
4. COMPLETE: Wkbk 28-31
5. READ: Jainism textbook reading PDF (in the "Resources" link, click on "Textbook Readings")
6. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Jainism discussion questions (found in the end of the Jainism chapter in your workbook *The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions*) The title of your post should be the question you selected.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected (as best you can since there are very few discussion questions for this chapter).
7. TAKE: Syllabus Quiz (go to the 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)

Before Thursday 10/1, 11:55pm:

1. TAKE: Jainism Quiz
2. READ: Indian Buddhism Notes
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 34- top of 41
4. READ: Chs. 5 and 6 of *Think*
5. TAKE: Indian Buddhism Quiz
6. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Indian Buddhism discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected.

Before Thursday 10/8, 11:55pm:

1. READ: Sikhism Notes
2. COMPLETE: Wkbk 44-48
3. READ: Sikhism textbook reading PDF (in the "Resources" link, click on "Textbook Readings")
4. TAKE: Sikhism Quiz
5. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Sikhism discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected.

Before Thursday 10/15, 11:55pm:

1. REVIEW: Study your materials on Hinduism, Jainism, Indian Buddhism, and Sikhism
2. TAKE: Exam 1 (go to the 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)

Before Thursday 10/22, 11:55pm:

1. READ: Daoism Notes
2. COMPLETE: Wkbk 51-54
3. READ: Chs. 7 and 8 of *Think*
4. READ: Confucianism Notes
5. COMPLETE: Wkbk 57- top of 61
6. TAKE: Daoism AND Confucianism Quizzes
7. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Daoism discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected.

Before Thursday 10/29, 11:55pm

1. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Confucianism discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected
2. READ: Shinto Notes
3. READ: Shinto textbook reading PDF (in the "Resources" link, click on "Textbook Readings")
4. COMPLETE: Wkbk 65- top of 69
5. TAKE: Shinto Quiz
6. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Shinto discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected (as best you can since there are only two discussion questions for this chapter).

Before Thursday 11/5, 11:55pm

1. READ: Mahayana/ East Asian Buddhism Notes
2. COMPLETE: Wkbk 71- top of 76
3. TAKE: Mahayana Buddhism Quiz
4. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Mahayana/ East Asian Buddhism discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected

Before Thursday 11/12, 11:55pm

1. REVIEW: Study your notes on Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Mahayana/East Asian Buddhism
2. TAKE: Exam 2 (go to the 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)

Before Thursday 11/19, 11:55pm

1. READ: Zoroastrianism Notes
2. READ: Zoroastrianism textbook reading PDF (in the "Resources" link, click on "Textbook Readings")

3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 79- top of 83
4. TAKE: Zoroastrianism Quiz
5. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Zoroastrianism discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected

Before Thursday 11/26, 11:55pm

1. READ: Judaism Notes
2. READ: Chs. 9 & 10 of *Think*
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 85- top of 94
4. WATCH: *Genocide* (a link to the film will be emailed via Laulima)
5. TAKE: Judaism Quiz
6. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Judaism discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected

Before Thursday 12/3, 11:55pm

1. READ: Christianity Notes
2. READ: Chs. 11 and 12 of *Think*
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 97- top of 107
4. TAKE: Christianity Quiz
5. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Christianity discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected

Before Thursday 12/10, 11:55pm

1. READ: Islam Notes
2. READ: Chs. 13 and 14 of *Think*
3. COMPLETE: Wkbk 111-117
4. WATCH: *Inside Mecca* (a link to the film will be emailed via Laulima)
5. TAKE: Islam Quiz
6. POST to 'Forums':
  - a. Your own answer to one of the Islam discussion questions.
  - b. Reply to two of your classmates' posts. Do not select students who chose the same question you selected

Finals Week

1. REVIEW: Study your notes on Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
2. TAKE: Exam 3
3. ENJOY: your winter break! Thanks for being in class! I hope you learned a lot 😊

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Make-up Policy:

Students are provided with **three virtual 'No Questions Asked' (NQA) coupons** that enable them to make up a quiz, writing assignment, exam, discussion post/reply **up to one week past the due date**. If you need to submit something later, please **email me** to let me know to which assignment you would like a coupon applied. Without the NQA coupon, late work will not be



accepted. Coupons may not be shared or replicated. Unused coupons will be counted toward 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). If you are unsure whether or not you are citing sources correctly, please ask me. Students charged with academic dishonesty face serious consequences that range from an F grade for the assignment to a F grade for the course.

#### 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.

#### Extra Credit:

Extra credit can be earned by turning in responses to the Think Log prompts. The prompts can be found on pp.121-124 of the workbook (*The Student's Guide to the Study of World Religions*). They are also embedded in the Professor's Notes by religious tradition. 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. 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 Friday December 11, 2015.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ONLINE COURSES**

- Students must have regular, reliable access to a computer with a strong internet connection. If you foresee that you will not have this, you will not be able to take this course.
- Ask yourself if online is the right method of instruction for you. If you are very independent, organized, focused, and somewhat tech-savvy, you should do fine in an online course. On the other hand, if these traits do not describe you, please seriously consider taking a traditional face-to-face (F2F) course.
- Taking an online class requires a lot of self-discipline; stay organized and submit assignments early so that you can enjoy the class and avoid unnecessary stress. I strongly recommend using a planner. Put important deadlines for assignments from all of your courses' syllabi into the planner. Create a weekly schedule with your school and work hours. Don't forget to schedule in blocks of time when you plan to read and complete homework assignments.
- I will communicate with you via your UH Mail. Thus, you'll need to check that account on a regular basis. If there is another email account you most often use (such as Gmail or

Hotmail), you can forward your UH Mail to that account. Go here for directions:  
[https://windward.hawaii.edu/Technology/Forwarding\\_UHMail.pdf](https://windward.hawaii.edu/Technology/Forwarding_UHMail.pdf)

- Computer/internet problems are not acceptable reasons for missing or late assignments; submit your work early, just in case.
- I am not a computer help desk. If you are having technical problems please consult the people in the section titled 'Online Support.'

### **RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU IN THIS CLASS**

1. Familiarize yourself with Lulima during the first week. Click on all of the links on the left hand side and see what they contain and/or do.
2. Even though there isn't a formal attendance policy, login to Lulima *at least* three times/week. This is your class and you need to show up to the classroom, our website.
3. Stay on top of the schedule, especially at the very beginning. Studies show that it only takes a week of not keeping up with the course tasks early in the semester for online learners to become lost and then give up.
4. Contact me if you have any questions. I want you to succeed in this course!