

Religion 150 Introduction to Major World Religions

3 credits

TR 8:30 to 9:45 AM in PALANA 213 (63051)

TR 10:00 to 11:15 AM in PALANA 212 (63052)

INSTRUCTOR: Christine Walters

OFFICE: PALANA TBA

OFFICE HOURS: TR 11:30 to 12:30 PM; 2:30 to 3:00 PM or by appointment

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 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. Field trips may be required outside class time. 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.

COURSE TASKS

1. Attendance is highly recommended. The exams will rely **heavily** on lecture material. If you miss class regularly, it will be detrimental to your success in this course.
2. Daily assignments are to be completed before class. For instance, if a reading assignment is listed on the course schedule for 9/1, the assignment should be completed *before* class meeting on that day. Please be sure to check Laulima daily for announcements, as the instructor will also assign supplemental material to the in-class lectures such as videos to watch and interactive sites to visit.
3. There will be occasional quizzes on both the reading assignments and the material from lectures available via Laulima. You will be responsible for completing quizzes on quiz dates, as listed on the course schedule. Quizzes can be taken in advance of the quiz date with prior approval from the instructor. Missed quizzes cannot be made up, since they will be available online. Failure to complete a quiz will result in a zero grade.
4. In addition to the quizzes, there will be three exams, including the final. Attendance at all three exams is **mandatory**. If you know in advance that you will miss an exam, please contact the instructor to reschedule. If, for any unforeseen reason, you miss an exam, you must email the instructor immediately to reschedule, providing proof (and a very good explanation) for the absence. If a make-up exam is permitted by the instructor, the exam will be essay format.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Quizzes:	25%
Exam 1:	25%
Exam 2:	25%
Exam 3:	25%

GRADE SCALE

A	100%-90%
B	89%-80%
C	79%-70%
D	69%-60%
F	below 59%

LEARNING RESOURCES

Roy Robson. *Think: World Religions*. Prentice Hall, copyright 2011.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health challenge 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.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT

There is **ZERO** tolerance for plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students charged with academic dishonesty will receive a Fail grade for the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

WEEK 1: Introduction to World Religions

January 12 – 16

T 1/13: Review of course syllabus/Introduction to course content

Discussion: rules/parameters for in-class discussions

R 1/15: QUIZ 1

Discussion: definition(s) of Religion

Introduction to Religious Terms

Read Robson, pages 3-21

WEEK 2: Academic Study of Religion; Indigenous Religions

January 19 – 23

T 1/20: QUIZ 2

Academic vs. Religious Studies of Religion

Read website on Laulima

R 1/22: Indigenous Religions: a summary of themes; case study: Hawaiian Religion

Read Indigenous religions website on Laulima; Read “Kumulipo” on Laulima

WEEK 3: Review/Exam

January 26 – 30

T 1/27: QUIZ 3

Indigenous Religions case study: Hawaiian Religion

Review for EXAM 1

R 1/29: EXAM 1 – Definitions of Religion, Academic Study, Indigenous Religions

WEEK 4: Hinduism

February 2 – 6

T 2/3: *Hinduism*, Indus valley civilization, Vedic context

Read Robson, pages 23-28; pages 32-33

R 2/5: *Hinduism*, Upanishads, Foundational worldview, Gods

Discussion: the Hindu worldview “web”

Read Robson, pages 33-37; pages 30-32

WEEK 5: Hinduism/Buddhism

February 9 – 13

T 2/10: QUIZ 4

Hinduism, Epics, contemporary rituals and beliefs

Watch “Sita Sings the Blues” on Laulima

Read Robson, pages 39-51

R 2/12: *Buddhism*, The Buddha’s story

Read Robson, pages 53-63

WEEK 6: Buddhism

February 16 – 20

T 2/17: *Buddhism*, foundational worldview/teachings; Theravada/Mahayana

Demonstration: Making a rose disappear

Read Robson, pages 63-67; pages 74-81

R 2/19: QUIZ 5

Buddhism, Transmission of Buddhism; Interaction with Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto

Demonstration: making a rose disappear

Read Robson, pages 89-94; pages 112-117

WEEK 7: Buddhism

February 23 – 27

T 2/24: *Buddhism*, Expressions and Practices

Review for EXAM 2, Discussion: Continuity and Discontinuity Hinduism and Buddhism

R 2/26: EXAM 2 – Hinduism and Buddhism

WEEK 8: Judaism

March 2 – 6

T 3/3: *Judaism*, Historical context/“Abrahamic” Religion

Read Robson, pages 119-127

R 3/5: *Judaism*, First Temple Period, Second Temple Period

Read Robson, pages 127-137

WEEK 9: Judaism

March 9 – 13

T 3/10: *Judaism*, Holocaust, Divisions within modern Judaism

Read Robson, pages 139-142; 148-152

R 3/12: QUIZ 6

Judaism, Contemporary rituals and practices

Read Robson, pages 142-148

WEEK 10: Christianity

March 16 – 20

T 3/17: *Christianity*, Intro to Christianity as a ‘world religion’; Da Jesus Story

Read Robson, pages 157-159; 160-164

R 3/19: *Christianity*, Early Christian church

Read Robson, pages 165-168

NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK

March 23 – 27

WEEK 11: Christianity

March 30 – April 3

T 3/31: *Christianity*, the church divides: Great schism

Read Robson, pages 168-175; 177-181

R 4/2: QUIZ 7

Christianity, Protestant reformation; divisions: Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant

Read Robson, pages 181-189

WEEK 12: Islam

April 6 – 10

T 4/7: *Christianity*, Contemporary Christianity

Read Robson, pages 190-194, pages 195

R 4/9: *Christianity*, American Christianity; religion and politics in the US

WEEK 13: Islam

April 13 – 17

T 4/14: QUIZ 8

Islam, Intro to Islam as a ‘world religion’

Read Robson, pages 201-207

R 4/16: *Islam*, the Prophet’s story, Internal divisions: Sunni/Shi’a split

Read Robson, pages 207-216

WEEK 14: Islam

April 20 – 24

T 4/21: *Islam*, The Five Practices/Pillars, contemporary holidays
Read Robson, pages 223-229; pages 231-235; pages 238-241

R 4/23: QUIZ 9

Islam, Contemporary Islam

WEEK 15: Review of Abrahamic Religions

April 27 – May 1

T 4/28: QUIZ 10

Islam, Islam and international politics

R 4/30: Discussion: Abrahamic Religions

WEEK 16: Review of Abrahamic Religions

May 4 – May 8

T 5/5: Final Exam review and question session

R 5/7: NO CLASS: REVIEW DAY

EXAM 3/FINAL EXAM:

CRN # 63051: Thursday, May 14th from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM in PALANA 213CRN # 63052: Tuesday, May 12th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in PALANA 212