UNIVERSITY of HAWAIʻI
WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Koʻolau

Rel150 : Introduction to Major World Religions

Fall/2026, Tuesday/Thursday, 10:30-11:45, Palanakila-225,

3 Credits | 83130

This syllabus and/or our Course Schedule is subject to change at any time. I will notify you of any changes via direct communication. Mahalo!

Windward Community College Mission Statement

ʻO keia ka wā kūpono e hoʻonui ai ka ʻike me ka hoʻomaopopo i kō Hawaiʻi mau hoʻoilina waiwai. Aia nō hoʻi ma ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Koʻolau nā papahana hou o nā ʻike ʻake akamai a me nā hana noʻeau. Me ke kuleana koʻikoʻi e hoʻohiki ke Kulanui e kākoʻo a e hoʻokumu i ala e hiki kē kōkua i ka hoʻonui ʻike a nā kānaka maoli. Na mākou nō e hoʻolako, kākoʻo a paipai i nā Koʻolau a kō Oʻahu aʻe me nā hana noʻeau ākea, ka hoʻonaʻauao ʻoihana a me ka hoʻonui ʻike ma ke kaiāulu— hōʻaʻano a e hoʻoulu i nā haumāna i ka poʻokela.

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawaiʻi 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.

ʻĀina

Windward Community College is located in the ahupuaʻa of Kāneʻohe and Heʻeʻia in the moku of Koʻolaupoko on the island of Oʻahu. Both ahupuaʻa are directly connected to the moʻo ʻōlelo of Pāpa and Wākea, who are seen as the ancestors of the Hawaiian nation. The campus sits beneath the puʻu of Keahiakahoe, which is also connected to many moʻo ʻōlelo of this ʻāina. Because wind names and rain names are associated with specific ʻāina, the rain name of Kāneʻohe is known as the ʻĀpuakea and the rain name of Heʻeʻia is the Ulumano.

Instructor Information

How to Contact Your Instructor

- Mason, Richard
- Office: Office & Phone: TBD (for the time being, The Hub)
- Office Hours: Mondays & Fridays 11:30 – 13:00.
- Email: masonrl@hawaii.edu

About

Greetings, I'm Mason! It's great to be your instructor for this course. The best way to get ahold of me is either by E-mail, or better yet if possible, just holler at me when you see me. I check my E-mail often, but with plenty of emails coming in, getting back might take me a minute. However, I promise to do so ASAP. Contact me at any time.

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: Alakaʻi 121
- Phone: (808) 235-7422

Asking Course Questions

Please use course Q&A in Lamakū Discussions for all general course questions about content, activities, due dates, how work will be graded, etc. I will check Q&A daily and provide follow-up information there. Email specific grading questions and/or personal matters, per FERPA, to keep your information protected. Again, email me, or holler at me, at any time.

Contingency Plan

If there is an outage, weather situation, or family emergency on my end, I will do my best to find a way to communicate an update as soon as possible about my return to the course. Mahalo in advance for your understanding and I hope you will do the same.

Course Format & Structure

This course is offered in a 16-week time frame. Please note that this is not a self-paced course; our course schedule is provided in this syllabus, and we adhere to the schedule as best as we are able. That said, things change. Our schedule may change by a day or two, depending on our needs as a class.

Participation Verification

Campuses are required by federal regulations to verify the participation of students in their classes. In accordance with Executive Policy 7.209, all students in the University of Hawai'i system are required to establish "participation" to ensure that they are not dropped from their class(es). Effective Fall 2021, students who fail to participate by the late registration period for a class will be administratively dropped from that class. Students may also be dropped from dependent prerequisite and/or corequisite classes if both courses do not establish participation.

Course Information

Catalog Description

Introduction to the world's major religions: Primitive/Primal *(Indigenous),* Hinduism, Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Course Outcomes

Students can expect to attain the following outcomes as a result of taking this course:

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.

Required Materials

There are no textbooks in this class, though there are plenty of readings. All reading resources will be uploaded to Lamakū prior, allowing students time and access to prepare accordingly. In addition are the Wordlists.

Grading Policy

Tests. There will be three Tests, one for each Module covered. One for the first module (on Primal religions, Hawaiian, and Hinduism) one for the second (Buddhism and other Asian religions) and one for the third (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). The tests are not cumulative, but some basic concepts may be reflected on all 3. These are worth 25% each, for a total of 75 of Final Grade.

Participation/Attendance. There is never enough time to cover all the world's religions. With only 16 weeks, it is important that we stay in touch. Every class, Attendance and Participation are counted. If for some reason, a student can't make it- they are encouraged to let the instructor know.

Word Lists: For each of the three Modules presented Word Lists will be given. All tests will contain questions from the word list. Students are encouraged to print out the word list and keep it handy. It makes things far easier. They will also turn in the Word List Sets (hard copies) the day of the tests. These will be worth 4 points each per section, for an overall score of 12 points.

Reading Assignments: Reading assignments must be completed on a regular basis as found on Lamakū in the weekly resources folder. These, along with the and word lists are Invaluable information. Together they will highlight the exact information to be presented on the Tests.

Special Project: Week 6 will be a special project assigned on Asian Religions, not due until Week 11. The formatting of the project changes every time, and students will have a choice as to what the project looks like. Requirements TBD

Assignment	% of Grade	Due Date
1st Test	20	Thu Oct 1st
2nd Test - Midterm	20	Thu Oct 29th
3rd Test - Final	20	Tue Dec 8th
Word Lists	12 (4 for each)	Day of Each Test
Special Project	15	Thu Nov 5th
Participation/Attendance	15	Daily

Final grade Breakdown: A+ (97–100); A (93-96); A- (90–92); B+ (87–89); B (83–86); B- (80–82); C+ (77–79); C (73–76); C- (70–72); D+ (67–69); D (63–66); D- (60–62); F (under 60)

As of Right Now, All Students have a 100% A+ GRADE – IT IS UP YOU TO MAINTAIN IT. (Yes, I'm aware that the overall score is 102%. Just consider it built-in extra credit).

Late Work Policy. If there is an issue for work being turned in late, please see the instructor. As it stands, work turned it after the due date loses one letter grade per day it is late. As always- please stay in contact with Instructor.

Extra Credit: Students will have to meet with the professor during Office Hours and discuss the options if they want to pursue Extra Credit. There may be opportunities for extra credit, but these remain on a case-by-case basis.

Schedule of Events (Subject to change)

Date	Topic	Reading	Activity	Due
Week 1	**Introductions**	**MODULE 1**		
Tues 25	Who I am/Kenning	Why the World Needs Religious Studies	Who are you/Heiti	
Thu 27	Terminology	Dr. Ramdas Lamb "On the Sacred"	What are the word Lists?	
			1st Word List	
Week 2	**Hawaiian**			
Tue ***Sep*** 1	Ho'omana	Foreword from the Past Before Us	"Hearing" the Kumulipo Hawaiian Word Lists	
		Sept 1 - Last Day for 100% Tuition Refund		
Thu 3	Kino Lau	Mauna Kea: Hoʻomana Hawaiʻi and Protecting the Sacred	Akua	
	The Kumulipo	WĀKEA AND PAPA BEGINNING OF HAWAIIAN TIME		
Week 3	**Indian**			
Mon Sep 7		Labor Day		
Tue 8	Hinduism	Hinduism Today - 1	Indian Word Lists	
		Hinduism Today - 2		
Thu 10	Shiva the Destroyer	Yoga Powers		
Week 4	**Jain & Sikh**			
Tue 15	Jain	Jainism Article		
Thu 17	Sikh	Sikh Article		
			Jain & Sikh Word List	
Week 5	**Indigenous**			
Tue 24	John Frumm		The King Under the Hill	
Thu 24	Balder the Bright	Excerpts from the Voluspa	The King Under the Hill	
Week 6				
Tue 29	Study Session	Study Session for 1st Test	Any Pukas?	
Thu ***Oct*** 1		*1st Test -*		All Word Lists
		Special Project Assigned		
Week 7	**Asian**	**MODULE 2**		
Tue 6	Buddhism	Buddhism-a Very Short Introduction	Buddhism Word List	
Thu 8	Buddhism cont.	Buddhism- Brief Overview		
Week 8				
Tue 13	Zao-zen	Parable of the Burning Huts	Fight Club & Haiku	
Thu 15	Taoism/Confucianism	Excerpts from the Tao de Ching	Taoist/Confucianist Word List	
Week 9				
Tue 20	Shinto	Excerpts from the Kojiki	Shinto Word List	
Thu 22	Indigenous	Indigenous Chinese Religions	Journey to the West	
			Big Trouble in Little China	
Week 10		**Midterm**		
Tue 27		Study Session, prep for the midterm		
Thu 29		Asian Religion Tests/Midterm		Asian Word Lists

Week 11	**Syncretization**			
Tue ***Nov*** 3		Election Day (State Holiday)		
Thu 5	All Saints	*Samhain go Bragh!*		***Special Project due***
Week 12	**Judaism**			
Tue 10		Judaism today- Introductions Judaism today- The Basics	Judaism Word List	
Thu 12		Nov 11, Veterans Day (Federal Holiday)		
Week 14	**Christianity**			
Tue 17		Christianity today - the Basics	Christianity Word List	
Thu 20		Christianity today - Sources of Authority	Who wrote the Gospels? Excerpts from the Synoptic Gospels	
Week 15	**Islam**			
Tue 24		Islam today – the Basics	Islam Word List	
Thu 26		Thanksgiving		
Week 16	**Preparation**			
Tue ***Dec*** 1	Islam cont.…	Islam today – Muslim diversity	Sufi clips!	
Thu 3		Study session for Final	Planning Potluck	
Week 17				
Tue 8		Abrahamic Test/Final	Potluck?	*Final Word List*
Thu 10		Meetings, final Grades		

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 the use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author.

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.

Windward CC Student Conduct Information

UH System Student Conduct Policy EO 7.208

Notes about AI

Students should refrain from using AI. The class Focuses on opinions, judgments, and Ethics that no computer program, no matter how advanced, can comprehend.

Student Kuleana

- Please review our Hawai'i-Style Netiquette, which blends the values of ALOHA with approaches to how we should consider treating each other online.
- Windward CC has Grievance Procedures in place, but I encourage us to try to work together first to see if we can work through any troubles. Mahalo!

RESPECT:

The material presented is sacred to millions of people around the world. It is vital that it is presented with the decorum and magnanimity it so richly deserves. Though a student may disagree with it, even disapprove of it, they must still approach the subject matter with all the respect that they would show their own beliefs.

This goes doubly so for others in the classroom. The Golden Rule was presented by a myriad of Faiths, and it is just as true in each. Students who cannot abide by this simple tenet lose all participation points for the week, and *risk failing the course*.

-THE CLASS WILL BE A SAFE-SPACE AT ALL TIMES- And safe enough to explore precarious ideas.

TRIGGER WARNINGS:

This course will explore morally difficult themes.

- *There are subjects concerning human sexuality and gender norms prominent in some of the discussions and readings that may prove challenging.*
- *Certain ugly elements of racial intolerance are a necessary reality for covering the modern period*
- *Violence was, and is, a universal aspect of the human condition. Warfare and bloodshed play a role in some of the readings and viewed materials of this unit.*

A certain level of maturity is needed to deal with these facets of the religion. If for any reason a student feels uncomfortable about any material, it is imperative that they speak with the professor. There are counselors available if the student feels uncomfortable approaching the professor.

Academic and Technical Support

Academic Support

- Windward Community College Library
- Library eResources
- Library Research Units (LRUs)
- Ka Piko Tutoring Services: Math Lab, Speech Lab, Writing Lab, ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi Lab
- Online Learning at Windward Community College
- STAR Balance

Technical Support

- UH ITS Help Desk: email help@hawaii.edu or call (808) 956-8883 (or 1-800-558-2669) for Lamakū and most technology support. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.
- Student Tech Support: email winhelp@hawaii.edu, call (808) 235-7437, or stop by in person at Hale Laʻakea 228. Available Monday–Friday from 8:00 am–4:00 pm.
- Lamakū: Click on the Lamakū Help link in the menu bar at the top of the Lamakū homepage to fill out and submit a question and get your answer via email.
- Information Security for Students

College Policies & Support Services

Basic Needs

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources, and transportation. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation, and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the UH System Basic Needs.

Disabilities Accommodations Statement

Windward Community College's Disability Student Services Office (WCC-DSSO) is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with disabilities.

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to participate fully in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor, Roy Inouye, to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. The Disabilities Counselor can be reached at (808) 235-7448, wccdsso@hawaii.edu, or stop by the office (Hale Kakoʻo 106) for more information.

Financial Aid

If you are receiving financial aid and are contemplating not completing the course it is highly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office at (808) 934-2712 or email them at wccfao@hawaii.edu ***BEFORE*** you withdraw to discuss the impact this decision may have on your financial aid eligibility.

LGBTQ+

The University of Hawai‘i system and Windward Community College are committed to building an inclusive community that supports and advocates for all students, staff, and faculty. We welcome all members of our campus community to our campuses: transgender, māhū, and people of all gender identities. All members of our campus community deserve a work and educational environment free from harassment or bullying based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. For more information, see the University of Hawai‘i Commission on LGBTQ+ Equality. Windward Community College Commissioner: Scott Sutherland, scottjks@hawaii.edu

Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health and Wellness at Windward Community College provides counseling services and activities on campus to support students' life goals as well as their academic goals. Information about services can be found at WCC Mental Health & Wellness.

Student Conduct Code

Windward Community College follows the University of Hawai‘i Code of Student Conduct which defines expected conduct for students and specifies those acts subject to University sanctions. Students should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct since, upon enrollment at Windward Community College, they have placed themselves under the policies and regulations of the University and its duly constituted bodies. The disciplinary authority is exercised through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Copies of the Student Conduct Code are available at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

TRiO Program

The Federal TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRiO includes six outreach and support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities in progressing through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs. Information about services can be found at Windward CC TRiO.

Title IX - Sex Discrimination And Gender-Based Violence Resources

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Desrae Kahale, UH System Confidential Advocate
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: advocate@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 101

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: dkahale3@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 101

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator

Phone: (808) 235-7468
Email: mozoa@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 109

Karen Cho, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7404
Email: kcho@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale ʻAlakaʻi 120

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, refer to the University's Title IX resources, and the University's Policy, EP 1.204.

UH Alerts

The UH Alert emergency notification system alerts the university community in the event of a natural, health or civil emergency. The information you provide will only be used in the event of an emergency that impacts the health and safety of the UH community or the closure of whole campuses. It will not be shared with others or used for routine UH communications or announcements. To sign up, visit UH Alerts for more information.