



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII  
WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Ko'olau

**Religion 150: Introduction to the World's Major Religions:**

Spring 2026, 3 Credits | CRN 62442

**Windward Community College Mission Statement**

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'O keia ka wā kūpono e ho'onui ai ka 'ike me ka ho'omaopopo i kō Hawai'i mau ho'oilina waiwai. Aia nō ho'i ma ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Ko'olau nā papahana hou o nā 'ike 'akeakamai a me nā hana no'eau. Me ke kuleana ko'iko'i e ho'ohiki ke Kulanui e kāko'o a e ho'okumu i ala e hiki kē kōkua i ka ho'onui 'ike a nā kānaka maoli. Na mākou nō e ho'olako, kāko'o a paipai i nā Ko'olau a kō O'ahu a'e me nā hana no'eau ākea, ka ho'ona'auao 'oihana a me ka ho'onui 'ike ma ke kaiāulu — hō'a'ano a e ho'oulu i nā haumāna i ka po'okela.

*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*

**Instructor Information**

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*How to Contact Your Instructor*

- Mason, Richard, L.
- Office: TBD,
- Office Hours: TBD
- Email: [masonrl@hawaii.edu](mailto: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- usually within 24 Hours. *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: Alaka'i 121
- Phone: (808) 235-7422

**Course Information**

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Discipline- Religion      Credits - 3      Lecture Hours - 3      Designation - FGC

**Description of Course:**

*Well-Met:* Religion 150 is an Introduction to World Religions. Introduction to the world's major religions: This course explores all of the major world's religions, This includes up to Primitive, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, (and more time permitting).

**Course Format.** This course is offered in a 1-week time frame. Please note that this is not a self-paced course, the class schedule is strictly followed as much as possible.

## Course Outcomes

- 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.
- Identify the similarities and differences between two or more religions on the basis of the aforementioned dimensions.
- Examine the relationship between religion and culture/society.
- Question and think critically.

## Required Materials

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

## Participation.

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). 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.

## 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 20% each, for a total of 60 of Final Grade.

**Attendance** With only 17 Weeks, and 34 days to meet (and many a class cancelled), Attendance is imperative and makes up 15 % of the overall grade.

**Participation.** Every day, there will be questions. These questions will be open-ended. There may even be questions about questions, to encourage open dialogue. Students will be requested to respond to each other. These count as Participation points and are worth 15 points.

**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 (hard copies) the day of the tests. These will be worth 4 points each, for an overall score of 12 points.

**Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments must be completed on a weekly basis. These will given weekly as hard copies. These, along with the In-class Lectures, and word lists are Invaluable information. Together they will highlight the exact information to be presented on the Tests.

Assignment	Date of/Due	% of Final Grade
Module 1 Test	Friday- February 13 <sup>th</sup> -	20%
Module Two Test/Midterm	Friday - March 27 <sup>th</sup> -	20%
Module Three Test/Final	Friday - May 8 <sup>th</sup> (or TBD)-	20%
Word List	Day of Each Test	(4 each) 12%
Attendance	Daily	15%
Participation	Weekly	15%
Final Score		102%

*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.**

### **Other Important Grading Information.**

**Sandwich Days-** Sometimes a student needs a break, or a life-happens, or they just need a Sandwich. These are the reasons for Sandwich-Days. Every student is allotted two sandwich days for these moments. These aren't necessarily emergencies, but because Life. Students are encouraged to contact the Professor if a Sandwich-Day is needed and are highly encouraged if the Sandwich-Day is serious. A presentation of a Doctor's Note transforms a Sandwich Day to a sick day. However, bear in mind that this Semester only sees us meeting in person 16 times. I would hate it if you were to miss anything.

**Late Work Policy.** If there is an issue for work being turned in late, please see the instructor. As it stands, work turned in late loses one letter grade per day it is late. Tests missed are on a case-by-case basis. 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. Some examples may include writing a paper of religious material outside of the classroom (Researching a place of worship and speaking with members of the community, watching Fight Club through the Buddhists lens of the Parable of the Burning House. Etc...).

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**(Yes, I'm aware that the overall score is 102%. Just consider it built-in extra credit).**

**Calendar of Events (Subject to Change)**

DATE	TOPIC	READING	ACTIVITY
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**January** **Week 1- INTRODUCTIONS**

Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Semester begins Late registration begins (single \$30 system-wide late fee) UH Employee faculty & staff registration begins	<i>Syllabus:</i> Why the World needs Religious Studies	Pop Quiz on Syllabus &
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	John Frumm	The King Under the Hill	Balder the Bright

**Week 2 - Primal, Hawaiian, Indian Religions**

Wed 21 <sup>rd</sup>	Hawaiian	Mourning the Land, Mauna-Kea	Truth of the Mo`o
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hawaiian	Excerpts from Kumulipo	

**Week 3**

Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	Hawaiian Cont	Papa & Wakea	
<b>Feb</b>			
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Indian	Hinduism Today- the Basics	

**Week 4**

Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Indian Cont.	Hinduism Today – Hinduism in India	Which Deity is that?
	Deadline to:	Drop a course without a "W" grade Drop a course for 50% tuition refund Submit UH Employee tuition waivers	
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sikh & Jain	Jain & Sikh Reading (TBD)	

**Week 5**

Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Study Session</i>	
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> TEST-</b>	Word List Due-

**Week 6 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Module, ASIAN RELIGIONS**

Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	BUDDHISM	Buddhism- a Very short Introduction	Why is there a Fat Buddha?
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Buddhism cont.	Understanding Buddhism- Brief Overview	

**Week 7:**

Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Shinto	Excerpts from the Kojiki	God/Dess of Mercy?
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Taoism	Excerpts from the Dao de Ching	

**MARCH** **Week 8**

Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Confucianism	Excerpts from the Analects	
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Indigenous Chinese Rel.		The Monkey King

**Week 9**

Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>		Journey to the West!	(TBD)
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>		Journey to the West!	<i>Study Session</i>

**Week 10 - Spring Break**

18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>			
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<b>Week 11 - - Module 3- ABRAHAMICS</b>			
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Study Session</b>	
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Summer's-End Festival Leprechauns!	Second Test/Midterm	2 <sup>nd</sup> word list due Syncretism
<b>APRIL</b>			
<b>Week 12</b>			
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Syncretism continued	<b>Introduction to Abrahamics</b>	
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<i>Judaism Cont.</i>	Judaism Today- Introduction	
<b>Week 13</b>			
<b>Wed 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Judaism Cont.</i>	Judaism Today - The Basics	
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Judaism Finished</i>	Sitting Seder!	
<b>Week 14</b>			
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Christianity</i>	Christianity Today- the Basics	
<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Christianity Cont.</i>	Christianity Today- Sources of Authority	
<b>Week 15</b>			
<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<i>Christianity Finished</i>		
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Islam</b>	Islam Today.-1- Introduction	
<b>Week 16 -</b>			
<b>Wed 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Islam cont.	Islam Today- Muslim Diversity	Gifts of the Golden Age
<b>MAY</b>			
<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Islam Finished	<b>New Movements in Islam</b>	TBD
		<b>WEEK 17<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Study Session</b>		TBD
<b>Fri 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Final</b>		3 <sup>rd</sup> Word List Due

## Academic Integrity

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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](#)

Include an AI Statement (is it ok in your class? if so, when/how?) Here are some [UH Guidelines](#) and [AI Recommendations](#). Instructors should refrain from sharing or inputting student work into online AI tools, including AI detection tools, without obtaining student consent. Uploading student work has potential FERPA implications as well as potential copyright concerns. Additionally, the uploaded content could be used as data for training of the AI, without the student's consent.

## Student Responsibilities

### 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 will be asked to leave the room, lose all participation points for the day, and *risk failing the course*.

***-THE CLASSROOM 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.*

## How to Seek Academic or Technical Support

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### Academic Support

- [Windward Community College Library](#)
- [Library eResources](#)
- [Ka Piko Writing Lab](#)
- [Ka Piko Speech Lab](#)
- [Ka Piko Math Lab](#)
- [Evening and Online Learning at Windward Community College](#)
- [STAR Balance](#)

## Technical Support

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

## College Policies & Support Services

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### Disabilities Accommodations Statement

The 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](mailto:wccdsso@hawaii.edu), or stop by the office (Hale Kako‘o 105) for more information.

### 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 website](#).

### Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health and Wellness at Windward Community College counseling services and activities on campus to support students’ life goals as well as their academic goals. Information about services can be found at the [WCC Mental Health & Wellness website](#).

### 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 website](#) for more information.

### Financial Aid

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

## **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, the student has placed herself/himself 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 or [online](#).

## **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:

Leslie Cabingabang, UH System Confidential Advocate  
Phone/Text: (808) 348-0432 or (808) 341-4952  
Email: [advocate@hawaii.edu](mailto:advocate@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale Kāko'o 107 (Wednesdays)

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator  
Phone: (808) 235-7468  
Email: [mozoa@hawaii.edu](mailto:mozoa@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale Kāko'o 109

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource  
Phone: (808) 235-7393  
Email: [dkahale3@hawaii.edu](mailto:dkahale3@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale Kāko'o 101

Karen Cho, Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Phone: (808) 235-7404  
Email: [kcho@hawaii.edu](mailto:kcho@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale 'Alaka'i 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, the University's Title IX resources, and the University's Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to <https://www.hawaii.edu/titleix/>