

REL 2300 World Religion Fall 2015

Instructor: Sarah “Moxy” Moczygamba

Teaching Assistants: Dustin Shane Hall and Richard Batchelor

Course outcomes

- Understand basic world views, rituals, and beliefs of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Chinese religions, Japanese religions, Indigenous Religions, Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.
- Students will have problematized the category of religion and be able to finesse their own working definitions.
- Students will understand the social, political, and cultural factors that come into play in the formation and understanding of a given religion.
- Equipped with this knowledge of different religious traditions, and the contexts in which they thrive, students can better understand both their own vantage point, as well as engage with different cultures and countries in an informed, respectful manner (ie. if you take a job overseas, or where many of your co-workers are from around the world, knowing something about their history and context can only help).

Course Materials

A Concise Introduction to World Religions: Second Edition-Edited by Willard G. Oxtoby and Alan F. Segal. Oxford University Press 2011.

Purchase or access to one of the following films:

- Kundun
- Persepolis
- Fiddler on the Roof
- Princess Mononoke
- Lagaan

Assessments

Mid-term Exam: 25 Points

Modules covered before mid-semester

Final Exam: 25 Points

Modules covered after mid-semester

Weekly Quizzes: 10 Points

Every week you will have an online quiz that covers week's readings. The questions will be multiple choice and true or false. These quizzes are intended to ensure that you are keeping up with the material in the course, and will be available only until midnight of their due dates. More details will be available in the quiz link on Canvas.

Discussion Board/Participation: 20 Points

We believe that you as the student will learn a great deal in this course if you take an active role in it. In order to get the most out of your learning experience, you need to go beyond passive regurgitation of material. You will be expected to digest the material from the lectures and the readings. In order for us to monitor this, you will be expected to post your reflections on each weeks content. **YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE TWO POSTS PER WEEK.** For the first post, please answer the questions posted in the coordinating discussion forum. To respond to this question, students must cite the weeks reading and at least one of the videos in their initial post. In the second post, students will respond to another student's initial post and are encouraged to use course resources. Each of your initial posts should be approx. 250 words. They should be respectful, well written, and carefully edited and should exhibit your analytical thinking. The second response post should be approximately 100-200 words and follow the same guidelines about respect and grammar as the first post. These will be graded pass/fail. All posts are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the days found on the syllabus. These due dates, and any deviation from them, are noted in the course schedule below as well as in the due dates PDF.

Please be warned that glaring factual inaccuracies will result with you receiving a 0 for that particular discussion response.

Paper: 20 Points

For their final assignment, students will write a 6-8 page analytical paper that discusses a film in which one of the world religions covered in this course plays a prominent role. The goal of this assignment is for students to demonstrate their understanding of a religious tradition, to articulate how that tradition influences the lives and worldview of believers, and to examine the ways in which religion appears in popular culture. In their papers, students should reconcile themes and concepts in the course with the religion's presentation in the film.

Grading Scale

GRADE	POINTS
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86

B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D/PASS	65-69
F/FAIL	64 and below

Grade A is reserved for work that is exceptional in quality, for work showing keen insight, understanding and initiative. (Note: No A+ grades).

Grade B is for work that is consistently superior, for work showing interest, effort and/or originality.

Grade C is a respectable grade that reflects consistent daily preparation and completion in a satisfactory manner of all work required in the course. A minimum "C" average (2.00) is required for graduation.

Grade D is below the average necessary for meeting graduation requirements and ordinarily is not accepted for transfer by other institutions. A grade of a "D-" is the lowest passing grade.

Grade F is failing.

Course Rules

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to uphold the academic honor code of the University of Florida. Any student found in violation of this code will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. Students should take care in correctly citing all sources consulted during research. More information about the honor code can be found here: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>

Students with Disabilities

Students in need of special accommodations must register with the UF Student Disability Resource Center and provide the instructor with documentation to ensure that the student has adequate opportunity to reach their full potential. More information on disability accommodation at the University of Florida can be found at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/current.php>

Course Schedule

Week 1- Intro to the Course

- Syllabus Quiz Thursday August 27th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Student Introduction Post Thursday August 27th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 2- Module 1- Intro

- Response 1 Wed September 2rd at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Friday September 4th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday September 4th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 3-Module 2- Hinduism

- Response 3 September Wed 9rd at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 4 September Friday 11th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday September 11th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 4-Module 2-Hinduism

- Response 5 September Wed 16rd at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 6 September Friday 18th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday September 18th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 5-Modules 3 and 4- Jainism and Sikhism

- Response 7 September Wed 23th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 8 September Friday 25th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Jainism Quiz Friday September 25th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Sikhism Quiz Friday September 25th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 6- Module 5- Buddhism

- Response 1 Wed September 30th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Friday October 2rd at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday October 2rd at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 7- Module 6- Chinese Religion

- Response 1 Wed October 7th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Friday October 9th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday October 9th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 8- Module 7-Japanese Religion

- Response 1 Tuesday October 13th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Thursday October 15th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Thursday October 15th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 9- Midterm

- Wednesday 21st at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 10- Module 8- Indigenous Religion

- Response 1 Wednesday October 28th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Friday October 30th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday October 30th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 11- Module 9- Judaism -Homecoming Week

- Response 1 Tues November 3th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Thursday November 5th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Thursday November 5th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 12- Module 10- Christianity -Veterans Day

- Response 1 Tues November 10th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Friday November 13th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday November 13th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 13 Module 10- Christianity

- Response 1 Wed November 18th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Friday November 20st at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday November 20st at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 14-Thanksgiving Module 11- Islam

Week 15-Module 11-Islam

- Response 1 Wed December 2^d at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Response 2 Friday December 4th at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Quiz Friday December 4th at 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 16- Partial Week

- Paper due Wednesday December 9th by 11:59 p.m. EST

Week 17- Finals

- Final due by Wednesday December 16th by 11:59 p.m. EST