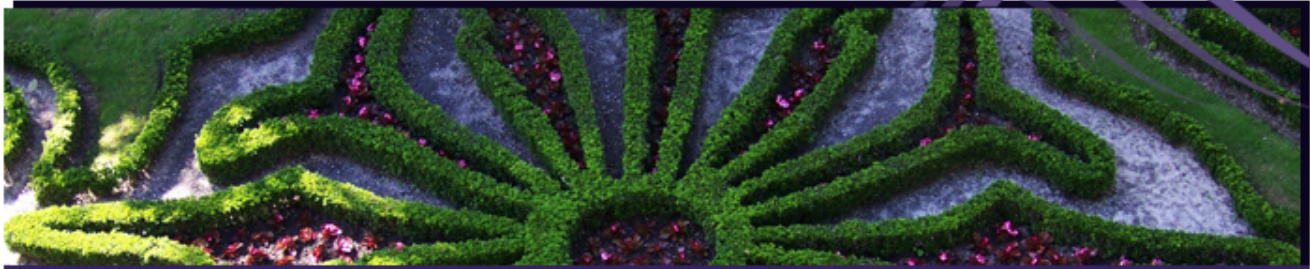


Course Syllabus



SYLLABUS

Welcome

Welcome to REL2300: Introduction to World Religions!

Please read this Course Syllabus thoroughly, as well as all important course deadlines below the Syllabus.

Refer to this syllabus throughout the semester for any course related questions.

Once you have read through this entire Syllabus and the [Start Here section](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/modules/1584832) (<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/modules/1584832>), please complete the [Syllabus Quiz](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/quizzes/1239872). (<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/quizzes/1239872>)

Course Information

Course: REL2300, Introduction to World Religions

Credits: 3 credit hours

Course Term: Fall 2023

Class Meeting Time: NONE (but pay attention to strict deadlines, as outlined below)

Prerequisite Knowledge: None

Instructor:

Dr. Vasudha Narayanan - vasu@ufl.edu (<mailto:vasu@ufl.edu>)

Teaching Assistants:

Michael Schuster- mschuster@ufl.edu (<mailto:mschuster@ufl.edu>).

Prathik Murali - prathikmurali@ufl.edu (<mailto:prathikmurali@ufl.edu>).

****Office hours are available by appointment.****

****It is recommended to use Canvas using Chrome on a computer and not a mobile device****

Course Goals

When you complete this course, you will be able to:

- Explain basic world views, rituals, and beliefs of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Chinese religions, Japanese religions, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and Indigenous Religions.
- Problematize the category of *religion* and identify your own working definitions.
- Identify 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, identify your own vantage point, as well as engage with different cultures and countries in an informed and respectful manner.

****All learning objectives are provided within the individual modules throughout the course.****

Course Readings and Required Texts

- [A Concise Introduction to World Religions: Fourth Edition](#)-Edited by Roy C. Amore, Amir Hussain and Willard G. Oxtoby. Oxford University Press 2019. ISBN-13: 9780190919023

**** Other supplemental materials, such as videos will be provided on this course's website.****

Instructional Methods

There are readings, videos, and other materials corresponding to each course module, but this course is designed to be as interactive as possible. So, as a member of this class, you will be required to contribute to weekly discussion posts and peer responses based on the material for each week. You will also be required to complete quizzes that will test your basic comprehension of the material in each course module. The deadlines for all assignments and quizzes are clearly stated in Canvas (in the Calendar and below this Syllabus). You will take a midterm and final exam, and you will submit a final paper. Please see the **Modules** tab to view all videos, readings and other course materials.

Course Requirements and Policies

Quizzes

Weekly quizzes will be administered in Canvas. You can access them through the Modules tool, in the *Modules* page, or through *Assignments*. The first quiz will cover the *Syllabus* and *Start Here* sections.

You are responsible for completing your quizzes by 11:59 pm on the due date. Quizzes are non-cumulative and are worth **20%** of your overall grade.

Once you have completed the readings and discussion and viewed the lectures for that week, make sure you study this material thoroughly. After you've studied the material, you should be ready to begin. The quiz is timed, so it is necessary for you to know all the material before you start (**i.e., there will not be enough time to look up each answer in your notes, so you should prepare as if your notes were not available to you**). You will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz.

If you are still taking the quiz when the due date passes, you will not be allowed to finish - it will auto-submit. Thus, you **MUST** take the quiz **BEFORE** the corresponding deadline. No makeups are allowed, except for medical or family emergencies, however there will be an opportunity for extra credit.

****If you have any technical issues regarding your quizzes and/or other assignments, you must contact the UF Computing Help Desk immediately at 352-392-4357, option 2. Once you have done so, email your instructor and TA with the details of your problem along with your Help Desk ticket number. -- Please do not contact the instructors without the help desk ticket number.****

Before taking your first quiz, view the [Canvas video tutorial on taking quizzes](https://vimeo.com/75056435)  (<https://vimeo.com/75056435>).

Online Discussion Postings

Every week students are expected to write a minimum of two posts on the online course discussion forums in Canvas. **This assignment opens each week on Monday and closes on Saturday, at 11:59pm.** The first post will respond to the course readings and/or lectures required for that week. The first post must be uploaded **before Thursday, at 11:59pm.** The second post will respond to a fellow classmate and must be submitted **before Saturday at 11:59pm.** Students should feel free to post about a topic from the readings and/or videos for that week that most interest them. A few example topics and questions will also be made available to students should selecting a topic prove too difficult.

****Note: For credit, the reflection post must be submitted by the appropriate deadlines. Both the initial post and the peer response are required for full credit.****


In every initial post, you must cite (at least) one of the videos and/or the texts corresponding to the appropriate Module. **All initial posts must include clear in-text citations.** You must mention sources and include page numbers and/or video-stamps. Chicago author-date style is recommended but other formats (such as MLA or APA) are also accepted.

All posts should be articulate, thorough, and adhere to the rules of grammar, punctuation, and spelling of the English language. They should be respectful, well written, and carefully edited and should exhibit your analytical thinking. You are welcomed to go beyond the minimum requirements and respond to multiple students but should post no less than two responses. And, both responses must be thoughtful! A simple "*I agree*" or "*I like what you wrote*" will not suffice. Instead, both the initial post and response must contribute to and provide something substantive for a useful discussion in order to receive credit. While

there is not a word limit for these posts a minimum of 250 words for the initial post and 150 words for the response is a good rule to follow.

Additionally, all posts should be courteous, academic and non-aggressive. Rude and demeaning online behavior will not be tolerated for any reason and could adversely affect your grade. While students may certainly be critical, responses and observations should be presented in a professional and academic manner. Students are encouraged to make multiple (relevant) posts, although this is not mandatory. Discussion posts will comprise **30%** of your overall grade for the course. You can use audio, video, and/or written mediums of communication in the discussion section.

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

Before completing your first discussion post, view the [Canvas tutorial on posting to discussions](https://vimeo.com/75056432)  (<https://vimeo.com/75056432>).

Project

In this course you will be required to complete a fieldwork project. The project consists of several parts including a 6-8 page reflection paper that summarizes your findings. The purpose of this assignment is *not* to convert you to any particular tradition. Instead, it is designed to encourage you to experience a different religious tradition in ways that cannot be explained through a textbook or video. It also gives you the opportunity to learn about the different cultures and traditions that exist in your community. It is advised that you begin this project as soon as possible since it includes several parts. This project is worth **20%** of your total grade. **No late papers will be accepted.**

Midterm Exam

This course will conduct a midterm exam that will be administered online via Canvas. The exam will cover the first half of the class (Modules 1-7), and the questions will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, matching and so forth. Once started, students will have 40 minutes to complete it. The midterm exam will comprise **15%** of your overall grade for the course.

Final Exam

This course will conduct a final exam that will be administered online via Canvas. This exam will only cover the second half of the class (Modules 8-11), and the questions will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, matching and so forth. Once started, students will have 40 minutes to complete it. Just like the Midterm, the final exam will comprise **15%** of your overall grade for the course. Additional details on the final exam will be provided later in the semester.

All course activities will be conducted via Canvas (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>  <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>).

Course Technology

Frequent access to a computer with a good broadband connection is required. See the [Start Here \(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/pages/start-here-course-information\)](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/pages/start-here-course-information) section for details on the technology used in the class.

University Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the [Dean of Students Office \(https://dso.ufl.edu\)](https://dso.ufl.edu). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the [UF Student Honor Code \(https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/\)](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/).

Note on Plagiarism

All written assignments including discussion posts and papers must include the proper method of citation from the citation style of your choosing. Please see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> [\(https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/\)](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/) for more information on how to cite your work. Please go through the [preventing plagiarism guidelines \(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/files/78646319/download?wrap=1\)](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/files/78646319/download?wrap=1).

The use of ChatGPT or other A.I. software is forbidden and goes against the university honor code.

Grading Breakdown

Quizzes: 20%

Discussion Reflection/Response Postings: 30%

Final Paper: 20%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

Please see the [Assignments \(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments\)](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments) tool for the points value of each assignment. Grades will be made available in the [Grades \(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/grades\)](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/grades) tool shortly after each assignment is graded.

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

HOME





[\(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/pages/\)](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/pages/)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Aug 25, 2023	 Syllabus Quiz Syllabus Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Sat Aug 26, 2023	 Welcome to the Course! Welcome to the Course!	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Sep 1, 2023	 Course Introduction Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674306)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Sep 2, 2023	 Course Introduction Discussion (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674319)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 8, 2023	 Hinduism Quiz #1 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674305)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Sep 9, 2023	 Hinduism Discussion #1 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674318)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 15, 2023	 Hinduism Quiz #2 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674296)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Sep 16, 2023	 Hinduism Discussion #2 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674317)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 22, 2023	 Jainism Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674295)	due by 11:59pm
	 Sikhism Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674299)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Sep 23, 2023	 Jainism & Sikhism Discussion (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674316)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 29, 2023	 Buddhism Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674300)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Sep 30, 2023	 Buddhism Discussion (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674315)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 6, 2023	 Chinese Religions Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674292)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Oct 7, 2023	 Chinese Religions Discussion (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674314)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 13, 2023	 Japanese Religions Quiz	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674294	
Sat Oct 14, 2023	 Japanese Religions Discussion https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674313	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 20, 2023	 Midterm Exam https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674301	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 27, 2023	 Judaism Quiz https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674307	due by 11:59pm
Sat Oct 28, 2023	 Judaism Discussion https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674312	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 3, 2023	 Christianity Quiz #1 https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674298	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 4, 2023	 Christianity Discussion #1 https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674311	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 10, 2023	 Christianity Quiz #2 https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674302	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 11, 2023	 Christianity Discussion #2 https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674310	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 17, 2023	 Islam Quiz https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674304	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 18, 2023	 Islam Discussion https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674309	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 30, 2023	 Extra Credit https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674321	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 1, 2023	 Indigenous Religions Quiz https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674297	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 2, 2023	 Indigenous Religions Discussion https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674308	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 World Religions Final Project - Site Visit https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674322	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 9, 2023	 Final Exam https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/485278/assignments/5674293	due by 11:59pm