

REL2300, Introduction to World Religion

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](#), please complete the [Syllabus Quiz](#)

Course Information

Credits: 3 credit hours

Course Term: Fall 2024

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Prerequisite Knowledge: None

Instructor:

Dr. Vasudha Narayanan - vasu@ufl.edu

Distinguished Professor, Department of Religion

Teaching Assistants:

Laura James - ls.ahrens@ufl.edu,

Sunanda Rana - ranasunanda@ufl.edu

*****Please be advised that you must use Canvas for all course communications; please include Dr. Narayanan, Laura, and Sunanda on every message.*****

Course Goals

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

- Explain basic worldviews, 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

Please do not use any other edition. The content and page numbers will be different.

****Other supplemental materials, such as videos will be provided Canvas.****

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 comprehension of the material in each course module. The deadlines for all assignments and quizzes are clearly stated in Canvas (in the Calendar). There will be a midterm and final exam, and a final paper (project). Please see the **Modules** tab in Canvas to view all videos, readings and other course materials.

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

Course Requirements and Policies

Quizzes

Weekly quizzes will be administered in Canvas on Fridays. 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 time passes you will not be allowed to finish it – the system will auto-submit your quiz. Thus, you **MUST *finish*** the quiz **BEFORE** the deadline. No makeups are allowed, except for medical or family emergencies.

Please note that the first quiz of the semester, the syllabus quiz, is due on Friday, August 23rd.

****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](#).

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 (most of the time; do check each week) 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. Half credit will be docked if you do not respond to another student's post. A quarter will be docked if your post lacks a citation (see below).****

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. The citation must be from the text or video assigned to the particular module. 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 welcome 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 in you receiving a 0 for that particular discussion response.

Before completing your first discussion post, view the [Canvas tutorial on posting to discussions](#). Please note the first discussion will be due on Saturday, August 24th, your response to another student will be due on Monday, August 26th, and all future discussions will follow the schedule laid out earlier in this section (**original post due Thursdays by 11:59pm, response to another student due Saturdays by 11:59pm**).

Project

For this assignment, you should first choose a particular religion you wish to learn more about. The religion you choose should **NOT** be one with which you are familiar. This means, for example, if you are Hindu or your family is Hindu, you should not choose a Hindu site of worship even if you consider yourself now to be non-religious. *If you belong to a particular denomination, we strongly recommend not choosing another denomination within the same tradition.* The purpose of this assignment is to help you to understand a different religious tradition in ways that cannot be fully explained through a textbook or video. It also gives you the opportunity to learn about the different cultures and traditions that are available in your community. It is advised that you begin this project as soon as possible because unlike similar observation papers, this paper includes several parts.

For more details, see <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/512420/assignments/6124241>

The project consists of several parts including a 6-8 page reflection paper that summarizes your findings. 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. The project is due on Saturday, November 23rd at 11:59pm.**

Midterm Exam

This course will conduct a **midterm exam that will be administered online via Canvas on Wednesday, October 16th.** You will have from 12:00am to 11:59pm on exam day to start and complete the exam. Please make sure to start your exam with enough time to finish it, as the exam will close at 11:59pm whether or not you have completed it. 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 starting on Saturday, December 7th. The exam will be available until Tuesday, December 10th 11:59 pm.** Please make sure to start your exam with enough time to finish it, as the exam will close at 11:59 pm whether or not you have completed it. 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/>).

Course Schedule

Under the 'modules' tab on Canvas you will find all of the readings, videos, assignments, discussions, and quizzes for each module of the course, along with their respective due dates. The semester starts on Thursday, August 22nd and you will be expected to engage with course material right away.

Please note the following holidays observed by the University of Florida: Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day, Monday, November 24th through Saturday, November 30th for Thanksgiving.

Course Technology

Frequent access to a computer with a good broadband connection is required. See the [Start Here](#) 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](#).

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](#).

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/> for more information on how to cite your work. Please go through the [preventing plagiarism guidelines](#)

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](#) tool for the points value of each assignment. Grades will be made available in the [Grades](#) tool shortly after each assignment is graded. If, at the end of the semester, your grade is within 1 point of the next letter grade, your grade will be rounded up.

****Please note: A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.****

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

Resources at a Glance

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage](#) for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Fri Aug 23, 2024	Quiz Syllabus Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Sat Aug 24, 2024	Discussion Topic Welcome! Please Introduce Yourself!	due by 11:59pm
Thu Aug 29, 2024	Discussion Topic Course Introduction Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Fri Aug 30, 2024	Quiz Course Introduction Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 5, 2024	Discussion Topic Hinduism Discussion #1	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 6, 2024	Quiz Hinduism Quiz #1	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 12, 2024	Discussion Topic Hinduism Discussion #2	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 13, 2024	Quiz Hinduism Quiz #2	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 19, 2024	Discussion Topic Jainism & Sikhism Discussion	due by 11:59pm

Fri Sep 20, 2024	Quiz Jainism Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 20, 2024	Quiz Sikhism Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 26, 2024	Discussion Topic Buddhism Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 27, 2024	Quiz Buddhism Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 3, 2024	Discussion Topic Chinese Religions Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 4, 2024	Quiz Chinese Religions Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 10, 2024	Discussion Topic Japanese Religions Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 11, 2024	Quiz Japanese Religions Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 16, 2024	Quiz Midterm Exam	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 17, 2024	Discussion Topic Judaism Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 18, 2024	Quiz Judaism Quiz	due by 11:59pm

Thu Oct 24, 2024	Discussion Topic Christianity Discussion #1	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 25, 2024	Quiz Christianity Quiz #1	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 31, 2024	Discussion Topic Christianity Discussion #2	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 1, 2024	Quiz Christianity Quiz #2	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 14, 2024	Discussion Topic Islam Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 15, 2024	Quiz Islam Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 21, 2024	Discussion Topic Indigenous Religions Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 22, 2024	Quiz Indigenous Religions Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 23, 2024	Assignment World Religions Final Project - Site Visit	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 29, 2024	Calendar Event University of Florida GatorEvals – Fall 2024 Main Project	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 7, 2024	Quiz Final Exam	due by Dec 10, 11:59pm

Course Modules

Week 1

Course Information

Please begin by watching the introductory videos from your course instructor and teaching assistants found below.

Next, review the [Course Syllabus and Schedule](#) and refer to this for any course related questions. Review all Student Computing Requirements here.

Finally, review this entire [Start Here](#) section and take the [Syllabus Quiz](#) at the end of the module, which will assess your understanding of important course policies.

Course Information

Students are responsible for all content on this Welcome page, as well as all of the content on the following pages and in the syllabus.

- [Syllabus](#)
- [Course Requirements & Grading](#)
- [University Policies & Services](#)
- [Netiquette Guidelines](#)
- [Technical Help & Other Resources](#)

Where Do I Go For Help?

- If you have a question, be sure to check the [Syllabus](#) and this [Start Here](#) section first.
- ***Send a message through Canvas to the instructor and the teaching assistants with your questions. Please use Canvas for all communications, and include the instructor and both TAs on every communication.***
- If you have a question about your grade, contact the course instructor and the TAs.
- If you are experiencing technical difficulties, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 Option 2.

In all cases, please allow 24 hours for a response. Questions posted over the weekend may not receive a response until Monday.

Course Navigation and the Modules Tool

Students can use the [Modules](#) tool for an overview of all course materials. This view will show your progress as you complete each assigned task for the modules. For additional information on how to use the Modules tool please refer to the [Modules Help](#) page in the Student Guide.

****Note: You must complete all modules in the outlined sequential order. Completing them in this order will unlock materials and modules as you move along in the course. For example, if you have not first viewed the Module 1 page and completed your assignment and discussion, you will not be able to take the Module 1 Quiz. If you have any access issues, check to make sure that you have viewed and/or completed all parts of the module in the correct order.****

Success in an Online Course

Taking a course online can be a lot of fun! Here are some tips that will help you get the most of this course while taking full advantage of the online format:

- Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. You will receive 0 points for work that is turned in late. **Don't forget to check your Canvas email and especially the [Announcements](#) for any important updates.**
- Read ALL of the material contained on this site. There is a lot of helpful information that can save you time and help you get a better grade.
- Complete all assessments, assignments and activities well in advance of the due date.
- Refer to the course [Syllabus](#) and due dates regularly to stay on schedule.
- Take full advantage of the online discussion boards. Ask for help or clarification of the material if you need it. Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.
- Sometimes technology malfunctions. **If you experience technical difficulties, call the UF Computing Help Desk immediately at 352-392-HELP Option 2.**
- To be extra safe, back up your work to an external hard drive, thumb drive or through a cloud service.

Students need to be aware that online learning can present significant challenges, particularly to individuals who are not 'self-starters' or those who do not possess good time management skills. The online classroom is available to you 24 hours a day. Unlike traditional instructional settings in which each student gets the same class, the online setting means that every student works when they want to work. In theory, this type of instruction should be more adaptable to a variety of schedules and learning styles. The reality is, however, that some students seem unwilling (we believe all are able) to create their own virtual classroom. This results in procrastination and low quality performance. Recognizing that everyone learns differently, I'm not going to prescribe the 'best way' to approach the course. You should note, however, that this course is not self-paced. You are expected to adhere to the weekly class calendar and due dates.

Expectations

To get the most out of this course (which will be reflected in the grade you receive) you must participate fully in all of the course activities. These include:

- Purchasing the texts.
- Reading all assigned pages from the texts.
- Viewing all lectures and videos in their entirety.
- Full participation in the weekly discussions.
- Studying for and taking the quizzes prior to the due date as listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Completing the midterm and final exams.
- Completing the final paper.

Course Syllabus & Quiz

The course [Syllabus](#) and [Start Here](#) module contain information you need to successfully complete this course. You are responsible for all of the information in the syllabus and Start Here module, and should read them thoroughly. Be sure to check these sections before posting questions on the [Course Questions](#) discussion board or e-mailing your professor. The information in these sections may save you a considerable amount of time and frustration.

Once you have THOROUGHLY read the [Syllabus](#) and [Start Here](#) section, you may proceed to the [Syllabus Quiz](#).

For the quiz deadline see the [Syllabus](#). Be aware that if you delay taking the quiz that long, you will be behind in completing the work for the first week.

Week 2

Course Introduction Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Recognize different ways of defining religion and approaches to the study of the subject in an academic context.
- Describe the differences between monotheism and polytheism and gain an understanding of dualism.
- Elaborate on the role of missionary expansion in the spread of religious traditions.
- Entertain different opinions on the study of "World Religions"

Instructional Materials

Readings

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 2 - 25
- [McCutcheon Academic Study of Religion.pdf](#)

Overview

- Watch [What is the difference between theology and religious studies?](#)

To Do

- Explore and take the [Religious Literacy Test](#)
- Take the Syllabus Quiz, if you haven't already taken it
- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 2 - 25 and McCutcheon
- Watch What is the difference between theology and religious studies YouTube video
- Contribute to the Course Introduction Discussion [here](#) by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Course Introduction Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, move on to Module 2

Week 3 &4

Module 2 - Hinduism

Hinduism Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Describe the major Hindu festivals of *Navaratri*, *Deepvali*, and *Holi*
- Explain the Hindu concepts of *karma*, *samsara*, and *moksha*
- Identify the different categories of Hindu scriptures
- Explain the role of dance and music in Hindu religious practices
- Describe the different gods and goddess and their relationship to each other

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 302-363

Overview

- [Introduction to Hindu Traditions](#) (28:14) by Dr. Vasudha Narayanan, [PDF](#)
- [Hindu Festivals and Sacraments](#) (16:00) by Dr. Vasudha Narayanan

Spotlight

- [Hindu Sacred Texts](#) (28:13) by Dr. Vasudha Narayanan

Video

- [Classical Indian Dance and Hinduism](#) (06:42) commentary by Dr. Vasudha Narayanan
- [Classical Indian Dance and Hinduism performance](#) (10:26)

*Note: The first quiz and discussion question focuses on the reading from Oxtoby while the second quiz and discussion is focused on all the videos (including the video lecture)

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 302-363
- Watch "Introduction to Hindu Traditions," "Hindu Festivals and Sacraments," "Hindu Sacred Texts" and "Classical Indian Dance..."
- Contribute to the Hinduism Discussion by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Hinduism Quiz (the first quiz focuses on the reading, while the second focuses on the videos including the video lectures) by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#).
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, move on to Module 3

Week 5 Jainism and Sikhism

Module 3 Jainism

Jainism Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Identify the shared characteristics among *shramana* traditions.
- Name the five *mahavratas*, the three jewels, what the four-fold community consists of, and the three major Jain festivals.
- Recognize and discuss differences within the Jain tradition.

- Define certain key terms like: *ahimsa, Jina, Jiva, pudgala, anekantavada*.
- Identify social, political, and cultural factors that have come into play over the course of the history of Jainism.

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 400-433
- [Jainism by Coral Rodriguez.pptx](#)

Video

- [India's Jains \(07:37\)](#)
- [Introduction to Jainism by Carol Rodriguez.mp4](#)

Internet Resources

- [BBC, Religions, Jainism](#)

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 400-433
- Watch "India's Jains"
- Watch "Introduction to Jainism"
- Explore BBC, Religions, Jainism
- Take the Jainism Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, move on to module 4

Module 4 Sikhism

Sikhism Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Recognize the social and political environment in which Sikhism arose.
- Identify the Ten Gurus and the major events that transpired during their guruships.
- Name the major texts.
- Define terms like: *Akal Purakh, nan, dan, ishan, Punjab, Sikh*.
- Identify the meaning of Khalsa, the conditions in which it was created, the 'five Ks,' and the Khalsa's changes over history.
- Recognize worship practices and the major festivals.
- Discuss and analyze contemporary Sikh identity by looking at the actions of one of its historical gurus.

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 364-399

Video

- [On Common Ground - Law Enforcement Training Video on Sikhism \(17:16\) \(new video\)](#)

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 364-399
- Watch the "On Common Ground - Law Enforcement Training Video on Sikhism"
- Contribute to the Jainism & Sikhism Discussion by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Sikhism Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, move on to module 5

Week 6

Module 5 - Buddhism

Buddhism Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Describe the life and enlightenment of the Buddha
- Identify and describe the three branches of Buddhism
- Explain Buddhism's notion of God and the self
- Identify the Four Sights, Four Noble Truths, and Three Gems of Buddhism

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 434-495

Spotlight

- [Buddhism and Theodicy](#) (23:18) by Dr. Mario Poceski

Video

- [The Life of Buddha](#) (49:47)

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 434-495
- Watch "Buddhism and Theodicy" and "The Life of Buddha"
- Contribute to the Buddhism Discussion by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contribute to the discussion, take the Buddhism Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, move on to Module 6

Week 7

Module 6 Chinese Religions

Chinese Religions Resources

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this module students will:

- Name the major thinkers and schools of Confucianism
- Name the major thinkers and schools of Daoism
- Identify the changes that arose during the different dynasties on into the modern period
- List the six arts, the five relationships, the five forces
- Recognize the major texts of Confucianism and Daoism
- Define the terms *qi*, *wuwei*, *sanjiao*
- Identify the roles and contributions of women to these systems
- Recognize the rites and festivals performed
- Analyze the difference between Confucianist and Daoists understanding of similar key concepts
- Discuss Confucianism and Daoism

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 496-559

Overview

- [Introduction to Chinese Religions](#) . (32:26) by Kendall Marchman, [PDF](#)

Video

- [Opening Doa: A Documentary Film on Taoism and Martial Arts](#) (23:49)
- [Confucianism in Korea](#) (5:05)

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 496-559
- Watch "Introduction to Chinese Religions," "Opening Doa..." and "Confucianism in Korea"
- Contribute to the Chinese Religions Discussion by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Chinese Religions Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, move on to Module 7

Week 8

Module 7 Japanese Religions

Japanese Religions Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Discuss how Shinto, Buddhism, and other traditions interact and overlap in Japanese Culture
- Evaluate the role state Shinto played in World War II and its aftermath
- Demonstrate the manner in which Japanese Traditions have changed in the 20th century.
- Illustrate how religion can help individuals who are recovering from loss/disaster

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 560-591

Overview

- [Introduction to Japanese Religions](#) (22:56) by Kelsie Stewart, [PDF](#)

Videos

- [Buddhism after the Tsunami - The Souls of Zen](#) (1:03:40)

Internet Resources

- [After Tsunami, Japanese Turn To Ancient Rituals](#) (04:06)
- ["Can Religion be based on Ritual Practice without Belief? "](#)

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 560-591 and "Can Religion be based on Ritual Practice without Belief?"
- Watch "Introduction to Japanese Religions"
- Listen and explore "After Tsunami, Japanese Turn To Ancient Rituals"
- Contribute to the Japanese Religions Discussion by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Japanese Religions Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, prepare for the mid-term and move on to Module 8

Week 9

Module 8 Judaism

Judaism Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Describe the basic Jewish celebrations
- Describe the ways in which Jews pray
- Explain Jewish dietary restrictions
- Identify the major books of Judaism

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 126-181

Overview

- [Introduction to Judaism](#) (18:57) by Rabbi Gail Swedroe, [PDF](#)

Spotlight

- [The Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israelite Religion](#) (24:15) by Dr. Robert Kawashima

Video

- [The Jewish Path](#) (5:49)

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 126-181
- Watch "Introduction to Judaism," "The Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israelite Religion" and "The Jewish Path"
- Contribute to the Judaism Discussion by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Judaism Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, move on to Module 9

Week 10 & Week 11

Module 9 Christianity

Christianity Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Outline with the history and beliefs of Christianity
- Explain about the life of the Historical Jesus
- Distinguish the theological arguments that contributed to the numerous splits within Christianity

- Recognize contemporary issues Christianity is facing and engaging
- Discuss the relationship between Western Ethics and Christianity

*Note: Quiz and Discussion 1 focuses on the videos while quiz/discussion 2 focuses on the reading.

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 182-243

Overview

- [Christianity as a Global Religion](#) (16:33) by Sarah "Moxy" Moczygamba
- Watch Dr. Richard Horner's [Introduction to the Four Gospels](#)

Spotlight

- [Theodicy and the Problem of Evil in Christianity](#) (27:38) by Dr. Anna Peterson

Recommended

- [From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians \(part 1\)](#) (1:51:05) on PBS
- [From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians](#) (part 2) (1:52:46) on PBS

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 182-243
- Watch "Christianity as a Global Religion," "Introduction to the Four Gospels," and "Theodicy and the Problem of Evil in Christianity." It is recommended that you also watch the "From Jesus to Christ" videos.
- Contribute to the Christianity Discussion #1 by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Christianity Quiz #1 by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Contribute to the Christianity Discussion #2 by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Christianity Quiz #2 by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, move on to Module 10

Week 12 & Week 13

Module 10 Islam

Islam Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- List the five pillars of Islam
- Differentiate between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims
- Recall the sources of authority in Islam
- Describe the role of the Prophet Muhammad for Islam

- Explain how the Sufi tradition differs from the other forms of Islam

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 244-301

Overview

- [Introduction to Islam](#) (34:23) by Dr. Gwendolyn Simmons

Spotlight

- [Islam and Ethics](#) (26:03) by Dr. Terje Ostebo

Video

- [Inside Mecca](#) (55:51) The video is from National Geographic and is titled "Inside Mecca".
- [Me and the Mosque](#) (52:45)

Recommended Videos

- Islam: Empire of Faith Part 1 [Islam Empire of Faith Part 1 Prophet Muhammad and rise of Islam full PBS Documentary](#)
- Islam: Empire of Faith Part 2 [Islam Empire of Faith Part 2 The Awakening full PBS Documentary](#)

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 244-301
- Watch "Introduction to Islam," "Islam and Ethics," "Inside Mecca" and "Me and the Mosque"
- Contribute to the Islam Discussion by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Islam Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Finally, submit your Final Paper by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- Once you have completed all activities for this course, move on to the Module 11

Week 14

Module 11 Indigenous Religions

Indigenous Religions Resources

Objectives

Upon completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Describe how scholars classify and study Indigenous Religions
- Describe major concepts found in the Indigenous traditions in particular geographic regions
- Recognize how these traditions interacted with, mixed with, and/or resisted European domination
- Relate the role artifacts play in our contemporary understanding of Indigenous beliefs

- Analyze the role of space in Indigenous understandings of self and cosmology

Instructional Materials

Reading

- Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 26-75

Overview

- [The Art of World-Making](#) (22:07) by Dr. Robin Wright

Spotlight

- [Cosmology Among the Baniwa Jaguars](#) (24:15) by Dr. Robin M. Wright
- [Religions of the Andean Region](#) (25:36) by Dr. Maya Stanfield-Mazzi

To Do

- Read Amore, Hussain, Oxtoby: pg. 26-75
- Watch "The Art of World-Making," "Cosmology Among the Baniwa Jaguars," and "Religions of the Andean Region"
- Contribute to the Indigenous Religions Discussion by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have contributed to the discussion, take the Indigenous Religions Quiz by the due date listed in the [Syllabus](#)
- After you have taken the quiz, take the course Midterm
- Once you have completed all activities for this module, prepare for the final project and exam.

Week 15:

Project & Final Exam

Find the information for the World Religions Final Project [here](#) as well as in the [Syllabus](#) For the Final Exam, please see the course [Syllabus](#)