REL2300.0001 (Spring 2012)

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Course Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify and deepen their appreciation of common human themes and the richness of diverse religions and cultures.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of chronology and significance of major events and movements in World Religious traditions.

Text: Experiencing the World’s Religions, M. Molloy

Topics and Schedules

1. Hinduism: Origins of Hinduism, pp. 75-76; How the terms ‘Indus,’ ‘Hindu,’ and ‘Sindhu’ are related to each other, pp. 76-78; Arrival of Aryans to India and their mixing with indigenous people, the ‘Dravidians,’ pp. 76-78; The Vedas, p. 80; The Upanishads and their main concepts (Brahman, Atman, Moksha, Reincarnation, Karma, Dharma, Yogas, Four Stages of Life, Maya, and Samsara), pp 80-87; The Bhagvad Gita and its main concepts, pp. 87-92; Varna (Caste) system, p. 88; Three kinds of Yoga, pp. 92-93; Trimurti: Brahma, Vishnu, & Shiva, pp. 98-100; Modern challenges to Hinduism, pp. 109-110.

2. Buddhism: Buddha, his Life, pp. 124-130; Modes of Reality, pp. 130-132; Four Noble Truths, pp. 132-134; The Eightfold Path, p. 131; Ahinsa (Respect for Life), pp. 136-137; The Soul (Anatta), Karma, and Nirvana, pp. 137-141; Theravada (Hinayana) and Mahayana Sects of Buddhism, pp. 143-157; Zen Buddhism, pp. 166-171; Vajrayana (Diamond Vehicle) Buddhism, pp. 172-178.


7. **Judaism:** An overview of Judaic history and its main themes, pp. 296-297; *Hebrew Bible*, pp. 297-299; Moses and the Law, pp. 305-312; Canon of scripture and the *Talmud*, pp. 319-320; Jewish Belief, p. 329; Religious practices of Judaism, pp. 330-337.


9. **Islam:** Meaning of the word ‘Islam,’ p. 443; Life and teachings of Muhammad, pp. 438-443; Essentials of Islam, pp. 443-454; Additional Islamic religious practices, pp. 451-454; The Qur’an, p. 455; Shi’ite and Sunnite sects in Islam, pp. 460-464; Islamic Law, pp. 475-476.

**Exam Schedules (Subject to change)**
- First In-Class Exam: Feb 3, 2012
- Second In-Class Exam: Feb 29, 2012
- Third In-Class Exam: April 4, 2012
- Fourth In-Class Exam: April 30, 2012 (Last Day of the Class and not Examweek).

**Day of Reflection:**
We would meet on the day of exam week to discuss and reflect upon the course.

**Grading**
Each Exam carries weight as follows: Exam I-25%, Exam II-23%, Exam III-25%, Exam IV-27%. There are no other exams or extra credit opportunities whatsoever.

**Grading Scale**
- 93-100% A
- 90%-92% A-
- 89%-87% B+
- 86%-83% B
- 82%-80% B-
- 79%-77% C+
- 76%-73% C
- 72%-70% C-
- 69%-67% D+
- 66%-63% D
- 62%-60% D-
- 0%-59% F

**Note:** Multiple Choice In-Classroom Examinations Require a Pink (Raspberry) Scantron