REL2300.0002
Dr. Kassim
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Office Hours: Tues and Thurs-days 1:30-2:30
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Course Objectives
1. Students will be able to identify and deepen their appreciation of common religious themes and the richness of diverse religions and cultures.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of chronology and historical backgrounds of major events and movements in World Religious traditions.

Text: Experiencing the World Religions, Fifth edition, by M. Molloy

Topics and Schedules

1. **Hinduism**: Origins of Hinduism, pp. 77-78; How the terms ‘Indus,’ ‘Hindu,’ and ‘Sindhu’ are related to each other, pp. 78-80; Arrival of Aryans to India and their mixing with indigenous people, the ‘Dravidians,’ pp. 78-80; The Vedas, p. 81; The Upanishads and their main concepts (Brahman, Atman, Moksha, Reincarnation, Karma, Dharma, Yogas, Four Stages of Life, Maya, and Samsara), pp 82-88; The Bhagvad Gita and its main concepts, pp. 89-90; Varna (Caste) system, p. 90-91; Three kinds of Yoga, pp. 92-95; Trimurti: Brahma, Vishnu, & Shiva, pp. 96-101; Modern challenges to Hinduism, pp. 109-110.

2. **Buddhism**: Buddha, his Life, pp. 126-130; Modes of Reality, pp. 132-134; Four Noble Truths, pp. 134-136; The Eightfold Path, p. 136; Ahinsa (Respect for Life), pp. 137-138; The Soul (Anatta), Karma, and Nirvana, pp. 138-139; Theravada (Hinayana) and Mahayana Sects of Buddhism, pp. 142-154; Vajrayan Buddhism, pp. 170-173; Zen Buddhism, pp. 164-166;


4. **Confucianism**: The Tao in Confucianism, pp. 235; The Life of Confucius, pp. 235-236; Main concepts of Confucianism, pp. 238-244; Five Classics, p. 245.

5. **Taoism (Daoism)**: Laozi & The Tao Te Ching, pp. 218-220; The Basic Teachings of Philosophical Taoism, pp. 224-226; Religious Taoism, pp. 227-230.

6. **Shinto**: Its Origins and the myth of creation, pp. 264-266; Shinto’s accommodation with Buddhism and Confucianism, p. 268; Shinto and Japanese National Identity, pp. 268-269; Essentials of Shinto belief, pp. 270-277
7. **Judaism**: An overview of Judaic history and its main themes, pp. 290-292, Hebrew Bible, pp. 292-294; Moses and the Law, pp. 301-310; Canon of scripture and the Talmud, pp. 319-320; Jewish Belief, p 329; Responses to outside Influences, Four Judiac Groups, pp. 312-314


**Exam Schedules (Subject to change)**

First In-Class Exam: September 11, 2014
Second In-Class Exam: October 9, 2014
Third In-Class Exam: November 6, 2014
Fourth In-Class Exam: December 9, 2014 (Last Day of the Class and not Last Day of the Summer Semester).
Exam week day: Reflections and resolving any problems

**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**

90-100% A
80-89% B
70-79 % C
60% -69 D
0%-59% F

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