

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Fall 2016
REL2300.03 WORLD RELIGIONS
MWF 2:30-3:20pm
Room: CB1- 307

INSTRUCTOR: DR EVANS
OFFICE: Psychology 243
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination and analysis of religious ideas and art in the religions of Animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The study will involve both historical and theological developments for each society with comparative analysis made for the possibilities of universal understanding of what constitutes a religion.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Demonstrate** knowledge of the chronology and significance of major events and movements in eight religions with their art and ideas
2. **Utilize** social sciences (sociology, psychology and anthropology) in the analysis of traditional approaches to what is a religion
3. **Evaluate** how societies utilize their religion to structure and regulate their culture
4. **Identify** and deepen appreciation of common human themes and the richness of diverse cultures through 5 tests and 1 paper of 2-3 pages.

III. TEXT BOOK

Custom Edition, World Religions from Fisher, Living Religions and Woodward, Sacred Texts of the World Religions. Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004.

IV. WITHDRAWAL

It is the student's responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course due to any personal or schedule problems. Students who fail to drop before the deadline established in the curriculum catalogue will receive an F for the course. **Withdrawal deadline is Oct 31.**

V. GRADING SCALE

Five exams:	75% (combined)
1 paper	20%
Attendance & Discussion	05%

Grades: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60 (0-2: minus. 7-9: plus)

VI. PAPER GUIDELINES

1. The 2 page paper will take a single topic (see outline) to be discussed between 2 religions
2. No right/wrong conclusions are desired, only analysis of what is believed and how it works for the particular religion
3. Discuss the view of each religion on selected topic and then have each religion discuss the other's view for comparison & contrast
4. Use discussion to demonstrate knowledge of each religion through the topic.

VII. COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Each text assignment must be read prior to class session. Students will be encouraged to participate in class discussion pertaining to the assigned material. Feel free to initiate discussion and ask relevant questions
2. Bring textbook to every class.
3. **Class attendance** is the responsibility of the student. Tardiness disrupts everyone, so be one time. For conflict of attendance during the semester, the student is responsible to notify instructor to determine if withdrawal is warranted. Turn off cell phones and laptops. Outlines will be provided on overhead projector for copying.
4. **Dates:** Failure to take exams when scheduled will result in zero ("0") credit for the assignment. Conflicts with schedule must be addressed before test dates.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

DATES	ASSIGNMENTS
Aug 22- Sept 2 Sept 7	Chapter 1: The Religious Response Chapter 2: Indigenous Sacred Ways Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Test 1
Sept 5	Labor Day
Sept 9-21 Sept 23-30 Oct 3	Chapter 3: Hinduism Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Chapter 5: Buddhism Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Test 2
Oct 5-17 Oct 19	Chapter 6: Taoism and Confucianism Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Test 3
Oct 21-31 Nov 2-16 Nov 18	Chapter 8: Judaism Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Chapter 9: Christianity Woodward: Sacred Text readings Test 4
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 21-Dec 2	Chapter 10: Islam Woodward: Sacred Texts readings
Nov 24-Nov 26	Thanksgiving
Nov 28	PAPER
Dec 7, Wed 1pm	SUMMARY FINAL/TEST 5