

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

FALL, 2017
REL2300.04 WORLD RELIGIONS
MWF 11:30-12:20pm
Room: BA1- 147

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 30.**

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 (as used in the class outline) and then have each religion discuss the other's view for comparison & contrast
4. Use creative 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 21-Sept 6 Sept 8	Chapter 1: The Religious Response Chapter 2: Indigenous Sacred Ways Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Test 1
Sept 4	Labor Day
Sept 11- Sept 27 Sept 29	Chapter 3: Hinduism Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Chapter 5: Buddhism Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Test 2
Oct 2-18 Oct 20	Chapter 6: Taoism and Confucianism Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Test 3
Oct 23-Nov 3 Nov 6-15 Nov 17	Chapter 8: Judaism Woodward: Sacred Texts readings Chapter 9: Christianity Woodward: Sacred Text readings Test 4
Nov 23-25	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 20-Dec 1	Chapter 10: Islam Woodward: Sacred Texts readings
Nov 27	PAPER
Dec 6, Wed, 10-12:50	SUMMARY FINAL/TEST 5