Course Description: This course will consider the political, economic, and social dimensions of the world’s religions, including indigenous traditions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will learn about and be able to recognize different components of the world’s major religions.
2. Students will gain familiarity with texts, history, and cultural trends from these traditions.
3. Students will increase their critical thinking skills through writing and analysis exercises.

Disability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Academic Conduct Policy: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida’s Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor’s discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.


In the UCF bookstore you will find a course packet for purchase that contains the McGraw-Hill Connect access card, which you must have in order to have access to the assignments. If you purchase a used book elsewhere, you can purchase the Connect access online through the access link found in Modules. Connect access includes an eBook which you may also choose to use instead of the physical textbook. If you would prefer to also have a tangible book in front of you to use, you may purchase a traditional bound book or looseleaf pages (more economical option) directly from the publisher’s website. Once you set up your account with Connect, you will find instructions on how to order these books if you wish.

You may use a temporary access code for Connect for a brief period (this might be helpful during drop/swap period), but you will eventually have to purchase full access to complete all the assignments during the semester.
Course Modality: This course will be conducted fully online through Webcourses https://webcourses.ucf.edu/ and the McGraw Hill Connect website, which is linked through the access point found in Modules (described below). Please check your Webcourses messages regularly or ensure that they forward to your regular Knights e-mail.

Instructions for obtaining access to the assignments: On the first day of class, log in to Webcourses and go to Modules (left-hand side of page). Go to “McGraw-Hill Connect” and follow the McGraw Hill Campus link. There you will see the “My Courses” page. Click on the “Connect” tab below the picture of the textbook. This will take you to the website that accompanies our textbook and where you can find our homework assignments. If you have used Connect previously, go ahead and use your log-in; otherwise fill out your personal information, establish a new log-in and enter your Connect access code (this will be with the packet purchased at the UCF bookstore, or you can purchase one at that time if you have a used book or plan to use the eBook through Connect Plus access). From that point, you will be on the main screen for our course and can see the homework assignments for each week. Note that for later log-ins, you will access the assignments on Connect through the link found in Modules on Webcourses.

Please note that this is a fast-paced, self-directed course. It is up to you to stay current with the syllabus and turn in your assignments on time. Please take your time with each assignment and plan accordingly. There are no additional extra credit opportunities for this course: if you do well with the initial assignments, then extra credit is not necessary.

**Professionalism Policy and special note regarding the purposes of this class**: I look forward to lively and engaged discussions in the forum, although please keep your posts respectful and appropriate for the classroom environment at all times. Please note that this course assumes no knowledge or religious affiliation. You are free to share your personal experiences as you wish and as is appropriate for the discussions, but please note that your personal experiences are not a substitute for the assigned academic readings and assignments. We will be approaching religious traditions from an objective, academic perspective. We are not here to promote religions or convert followers, but to understand them from historical, cultural, and theological perspectives.

Quizzes: After the first week of class, we will have weekly reading assignments and quizzes that will be completed on the Connect website. The homework assignments are worth 15 points each and are due by the end of day on Sunday (11:59 pm, EST time zone) of each week. Please complete your work on time (the assignment will time out after the due date, late work will not be accepted). You will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz, after which you will be timed out. Please do not click on the quiz until you are ready to complete it.

Discussion posts and Reflection: There will also be four reflection posts to be completed under Discussions in Webcourses. More information on these posts can be found on the Course Schedule and in Modules. Please complete the discussions on time; after the due date you will not be able to make any additions to the forum.

The quizzes cannot be made up unless there is an EMERGENCY situation (hospitalization, death in immediate family, etc.) that absolutely prevents you from completing the work on time. This situation MUST be documented and you MUST contact me immediately in order to inform me of the situation. Extensions will be given only at the discretion of the instructor and in very rare circumstances.
Final Grades Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total points earned / 240 points possible = percentage

(A= 94-100; A- = 90-93.4; B+ = 88-89.5; B = 84-87.4; B- = 80-83.4; C+ = 78-79.4; C = 74-77.4; C- = 70-73.4; D+ = 68-69.4; D = 64-67.4; D- = 60-63.4; F = below 60)

Course Schedule:

**Week One:** (8/24-30): **Introduction and Hermeneutical Exercise.** See Modules for Assignments.

**Week Two:** (8/31-9/6): Ch 1, Understanding Religion

**Week Three:** (9/7-13) Ch 2, Indigenous Religions

**Week Four:** (9/14-20): Ch 3, Hinduism

**Week Five:** (9/21-27): Ch 4, Buddhism

See Modules for Discussion Assignment

**Week Six:** (9/28-10/4): Ch 5, Jainism and Sikhism

**Week Seven:** (10/5-11): Ch 6, Daoism and Confucianism

**Week Eight:** (10/12-18): Ch 7, Shinto

**Week Nine:** (10/19-25): Ch 8, Judaism

**Week Ten:** (10/26-11/1): Ch 9, Christianity

**Week Eleven:** (11/2-8): Ch 10, Islam

See Modules for Discussion Assignment

**Week Twelve:** (11/9-15): Ch 11, Alternative Paths

**Week Thirteen:** (11/16-22): Ch 12, The Modern Search

**Week Fourteen:** (11/23-29): Happy Thanksgiving!

**Week Fifteen:** (11/30-12/6): **Discussion/Reflection.** See Modules for Assignment.