Course Objectives

1. Students should be able to identify and define the main concepts related to various themes in each religious tradition and should be able to understand how the religious traditions and cultures intertwined.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of chronology and historical backgrounds of major events 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 *Bhagavad 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.

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: Wednesday, July 2, 2014
- Second In-Class Exam: Monday, 14, July, 2014
- Third In-Class Exam: Tuesday, July 22, 2014
- Fourth In-Class Exam: Thursday, July 22, 2014.

**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
- 89%-80    B
- 79%- 70% C
- 69%-607% D
- 59%-00 F

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