REL 2300.001
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Course Objectives
1. Students should be able to identify and define the main concepts related to various themes in each religious tradition.
2. Students should be able to understand how religious traditions and cultures are intertwined.

Text: *Experiencing the World’s Religions (Sixth edition)*, M. Molloy

Topics and Schedules

1. **Hinduism**: Origins of Hinduism, pp. 75-76; How the terms ‘Indus,’ ‘Hindu,’ and ‘Sindhu’ are related to each other, pp. 76-78; Arrival of Aryans to India and their mixing with indigenous people, the ‘Dravidians,’ pp. 76-78; The Religion of Vedic period, pp. 78-79; The *Vedas*, pp. 79-80; The *Upanishads* and their main concepts (*Brahman, Atman, Moksha, Reincarnation, Karma, Dharma, Yogas, Four Stages of Life, Maya, and Samsara*), pp 80-86; The *Bhagavad Gita* and its main concepts, pp. 86-92; Varna (Caste) system, pp. 87-88; Three kinds of Yoga, pp. 90-93; Trimurti: Brahma, Vishnu, & Shiva, pp. 95-99; **Hindu Celebrations**, p. 104; Modern challenges to Hinduism, (Optional)

2. **Buddhism**: Buddha, his Life, pp. 124-129; Buddha’s Teachings, 129-132; Four Noble Truths, pp. 132-134; The Eightfold Path, pp. 134-136; Ahinsa (Respect for Life), pp. 135-136; The Soul (Anatta), Karma, and Nirvana, pp. 137-141; Theravada (Hinayana) and Mahayana Sects of Buddhism, pp. 140-157; Zen Buddhism, pp. 159-161; Vajrayana (Diamond Vehicle) Buddhism, pp. 164-168.

3. **Religions of China**: Basic elements of traditional Chinese beliefs in the formation of Confucian and Taoist tradition, pp. 206-211.

4. **Confucianism**: The Tao in Confucianism, pp. 227-228; The Life of Confucius, p. 228; Main concepts of Confucianism, pp. 230-236; Five Classics, p. 237-238.

5. **Taoism (Daoism)**: Laozi & The Tao Te Ching (Daodejing), pp. 210-214; The Basic Teachings of Philosophical Taoism, pp. 217-218; Religious Taoism, pp. 216-217; The Quest for Longevity, pp. 218-219; The Quest for Longevity, Soma, Alchemi and Western medicine (no pages).


9. **Islam:** Meaning of the word ‘Islam,’ p. 414; Life and teachings of Muhammad, pp. 409-4114; Five Pillars of Islam, pp. 415--422; Dietary restrictions, pp. 423-424, Additional Islamic religious practices, p. 422; Celebrations, p. 423; The *Qur’ān*, pp. 425-426; Shi’ite and Sunnite sects in Islam, pp. 430-434; Islamic Law (Sharia), no pages; Islam and the Modern World, optional

10. **Exam Schedules** *(Subject to change)*
    First In-Class Exam: Monday, July 13, 2015
    Second In-Class Exam: Tuesday, July 21, 2015
    Third In-Class Exam: Wednesday, July 29, 2014
    Fourth In-Class Exam: Last Day of the class, Thursday, August 6, 2015
    If you have any problems regarding your exams or grades, you should get them corrected immediately

**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%-60%  D
- 0%-59%   F

**Note:** Multiple Choice In-Classroom Examinations Require a Pink (Raspberry) Scantron. If you do not fill up your scantron correctly, there is a penalty of five points.