

Oklahoma State University

REL 1103 Introduction to World Religions Fall 2022



Traditional Australian Aboriginal Fire Dance

Copyright. <http://www.whitewolfpack.com/2013/08/traditional-australian-aboriginal-dance.html>

SESSIONS

See which session you registered for (two sessions have different final exam dates - check carefully)

- REL 1103-65964 MWF 9:30am-10:20pm (Social Sciences and Humanities 035)
- REL 1103-62141 MWF 10:30am-11:20am (Social Sciences and Humanities 035)

INSTRUCTOR

NAME: Jin Young Kim (jinkim@okstate.edu)

OFFICE: 254 Social Sciences & Humanities

OFFICE HOURS: Send me an Email for either in-person or Zoom appointment.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

*Check the session you registered for.

Session	Primary TA Info
REL 1103-65964 MWF 9:30am class	Kourtney Bear (kourtney.bearokstate@gmail.com) Office Hours/Location:
REL 1103-62141 MWF 10:30am class	Emilee Lemon (emilee.lemon@okstate.edu) Office Hours/Location:

CONTACTING INSTRUCTOR AND TEACHING ASSISTANT

*The best way to reach us is via email. Feel free to email us anytime, for anything.

When you send us emails, **make sure to let us know in which session (9:30am or**

10:30am class) you are in. There are multiple sections of this course, so if you do not give us the time of your class, it significantly delays our response. Ex. "Bart Simpson, REL 1103/10:30am, Questions about assignment" Please allow us 24 hours for response. If you don't get an answer by this time frame, do not hesitate to send us a reminder email.

COVID-19 OSU Statement Updated 8/15/2022

"OSU encourages faculty, staff and students to wear a mask indoors in public settings during periods of high community transmission regardless of whether you are fully vaccinated, consistent with the current CDC recommendations. This is especially important in classrooms and laboratories because people are together for long periods of time. Wearing a mask during class not only protects you but also helps protect those around you who may be more vulnerable. This is a simple way we can look out for all members of the Cowboy family. If you feel sick, do not attend class. Contact University Health Services at 405-744-7665 immediately, and communicate with me as soon as possible about any work you miss."

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to major world religions such as Yoruba religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam to understand the general nature of religion and its various dimensions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the brief history of development, principle beliefs/doctrines, and practices (both in public and private) of each religion.
2. Develop skills for a close, careful reading of primary religious texts and observation of religious practices.
3. Understand the social-political context of each religion and the impacts of religion on human beings and societies.
4. Perform informed comparisons between different religions, identifying similarities and differences in their thoughts and practices.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

1. **Stephen Prothero, *God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World*** (New York: HarperOne, 2010) *Reprinted one (2011) is okay. I do not provide scanned copies of this book due to the copyright law, so make sure that you have access to this textbook as soon as the semester begins. The library also has this book on reserve.
2. Please contact me or your TA if you need any help.



Recommended Textbooks (you don't need to buy; check out if you want to learn more)

- Philip Novak, *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions*. HarperOne, 1994.

- Mary Pat Fisher and Robin Rinehart, *Living Religions*, 10 th Edition. Pearson, 2016.
- Mary Pat Fisher and Bailey, *Anthology of Living Religions*, 3rd Edition. 2011.
- Tim Dowley, *Atlas of World Religions*. Fortress, 2018.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Anyone who violates OSU's Academic Integrity will be automatically reported to the Academic Affairs and will receive F without any excuse.

101 Whitehurst/405-744-5627/<http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu>

OSU is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and altering academic records) will result in an official academic sanction. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript, and being suspended from the University. Students have the right to appeal the charge.

MEDIA POLICY

Cellphones (except emergency calls and texts) are not to be used during the lecture. Laptops and tablets may be used, but only for the purpose of taking notes, not for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, browsing, shopping, doing other homeworks, etc. Why these restrictions (in the 21st century?) I know that this policy can be disappointing or annoying to some, but there's a considerable body of scientific research showing that multitasking seriously hinders our learning. Attentive listening to each lecture (even if sometimes it can get boring) is crucial to do well in this class. You are also helping me out by not distracting me but allowing me to focus on you and delivering the lectures. Let's spend 50 minutes fully devoted to the topic of religion!

EVALUATION (READ THIS VERY CAREFULLY)

- Total points available in this course: 100 points (100%) + random bonus points.
- Late submission of assignments: **20% points will be deducted/day automatically for any late submissions.** For example, if you submit an assignment within 24 hours after the due time, your maximum will be 80% of the points available for the assignment. Within 24-48 hours after the due time, 60%. Within 48-72 hours, 40%. After 72 hours, the maximum you can get will be 20%.
- Your final grade will be based on the quality and completion of the tasks below:

Total (100%; 100 points)	Explanation (For due dates, see the Course Schedule below)
-----------------------------	--

Attendance/ Participation participation (20%; 20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance is required and vital for your success in this course. • Attendance/Participation will be checked with random quizzes, participation questions, short in-class essays, reflections, etc. • Bring a paper and pencil every time so that you can submit your Attendance/Participation papers. • You will lose approximately half point (0.5 points) for every absence or failure to participate. But you can use bonus assignments to regain missing points. • The only officially excused absences (no deduction) are for official OSU responsibilities or medical reasons. For unexpected absences due to these reasons, please send an email to your TA.
Seven Reading Journals (30%; 30 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prothero, <i>God Is Not One</i>. Read chapters on Introduction, Yoruba Religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Atheism. (Introduction: 2 points; other chapters: 4 points) • <u>Check Canvas > Assignments > Reading Journals</u> for further instructions, due dates, terms/definitions, and short video clips.
Midterm Exam (17.5%; 17.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 min in-class. Closed book (Beginning ~ Buddhism). • 35 Multiple-choice questions. • Practice Questions for individual religions will be available as we finish discussing each religion. (Does not mean that the exam questions will be only from this Question Bank, but many questions will overlap with only slight changes) Go to <u>Canvas > Modules</u> • If you requested special accommodations through Student Accessibility Services (SAS), schedule your exam date/time with the Testing Center (strongly preferably on the exam date) about one or two weeks before the exam. Then, let me know so that I can send the exam over to them before the exam date.
Final Exam (17.5%; 17.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 min in-class. Closed book (non-accumulative. Judaism~ Atheism). • 35 Multiple-choice questions. • Practice questions for individual religions will be available as we finish discussing one religion. (Does not mean that Midterm questions will be only from this Question Bank, but still many questions will overlap with slight changes) Go to <u>Canvas > Modules</u> • If you requested special accommodations through Student Accessibility Services (SAS), schedule your exam with the Testing Center (strongly preferably on the exam date) and let me know asap so that I can send the exam over to them before the exam date.
Artifact Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format: 2-pages (single spaced; 4 pages if double spaced).

Paper (10%; 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Details and to Submit your essay: Canvas > Assignments > Artifact Essay
Final Reflection Paper (5%; 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a 1-page paper answering 4 questions. • Details TBD.
Create your Own Religion Paper (Optional; Bonus 5%; 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format: Minimum 2 pages single spaced (4 pages if double spaced) • For Details and to Submit your essay: Canvas > Assignments > Bonus Assignments
Other Bonus points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random and varies. • Guest talks, documentary films and reflections, etc. • Use this effectively to recover your lost points from attendance/participation, assignments, and exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE

* Schedule is subject to change at instructor discretion.

Date	Subject	Assignments/Exams
Aug 22 Mon	Introduction to the course; syllabus; Canvas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the textbook (Prothero, <i>God Is Not One</i>) asap • Check out Canvas course homepage • Read syllabus carefully
Aug 24 Wed	What is Religion? (1): Defining Religion	
Aug 26 Fri	What is Religion? (2): Defining Religion	
Aug 29 Mon	Approaches to Religious Diversity (1)	
Aug 31 Wed	Approaches to Religious Diversity (2)	
Sep 2 Fri	Approaches to Religious Diversity(3)	
Sep 5 Mon	University Holiday No Class	
Sep 7 Wed	Indigenous Religions (1)	Reading Journal on Prothero, "Introduction" DUE 11:59pm
Sep 9 Fri	Indigenous Religions (2)	
Sep 12 Mon	Indigenous Religions (3)	
Sep 14 Wed	Yoruba Religion (1)	
Sep 16 Fri	Yoruba Religion (2)	
Sep 19 Mon	Yoruba Religion (3)	
Sep 21 Wed	Hinduism (1)	Reading Journal on Prothero, "Chapter 6. Yoruba Religion" DUE 11:59pm
Sep 23 Fri	Hinduism (2)	
Sep 26 Mon	Hinduism (3)	
Sep 28 Wed	Hinduism (4)	
Sep 30 Fri	Hinduism (5)	

Oct 3 Mon	Hinduism (6)	
Oct 5 Wed	Buddhism (1)	Reading Journal on Prothero, "Chapter 4. Hinduism" DUE 11:59pm
Oct 7 Fri	Buddhism (2)	
Oct 10 Mon	Buddhism (3)	
Oct 12 Wed	Buddhism (4)	
Oct 14 Fri	Buddhism (5) - Class does not meet, watch online lecture video	
Oct 17 Mon	Midterm Exam Review Session	Reading Journal on Prothero, "Chapter 5. Buddhism" DUE 11:59pm
Oct 19 Wed	Midterm: In-Class, 50 min, closed book	
Oct 21 Fri	Judaism (1)	
Oct 24 Mon	Judaism (2)	
Oct 26 Wed	Judaism (3)	
Oct 28 Fri	Judaism (4)	
Oct 31 Mon	Judaism (5)	
Nov 2 Wed	Christianity (1)	Reading Journal on Prothero, "Chapter 7. Judaism" DUE 11:59pm
Nov 4 Fri	Christianity (2)	
Nov 7 Mon	Christianity (3)	
Nov 9 Wed	Christianity (4)	
Nov 11 Fri	Christianity (5) Christianity (6) - watch the recorded video	
Nov 14 Mon	Islam (1)	Reading Journal on Prothero, "Chapter 2. Christianity" DUE 11:59pm

Nov 16 Wed	Islam (2)	
Nov 18 Fri	No class: instructor gone for a conference	
Nov 21 - 25	Thanksgiving Holiday: No class	
Nov 28 Mon	Islam (3)	
Nov 30 Wed	Islam (4)	
Dec 2 Fri	Atheism	Reading Journal on Prothero, "Chapter 1. Islam" DUE 11:59pm
Dec 5 Mon	Pre-Finals Week: Final Exam Review Session	
Dec 7 Wed	Pre-Finals Week: No class	
Dec 9 Fri	Pre-Finals Week: Final Exam In-Class, 50 min, closed book	Reading Journal on Prothero, "Chapter 9: A Brief Coda on Atheism" DUE 11:59pm
Dec 12 Mon	Finals Week: No class	
Dec 14 Wed	Finals Week: No class	
Dec 16 Fri	Finals Week: No class	Final Reflection Paper and all other remaining bonus assignments are DUE 11:59 pm

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

409 General Academic Building/405-744-7607 <https://lis2many.okstate.edu/>

OSU is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. OSU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities. Examples of sexual misconduct and/or sex discrimination include: sexual violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic and intimate partner violence, stalking, or gender-based discrimination. OSU encourages any student who thinks that he

or she may have been a victim of sexual misconduct or sexual discrimination to immediately report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator (405-744-9153 or Deputy Title IX Coordinator (405-744-5470). If a reporting student would like to keep the details confidential, the student may speak with staff in the Student Counseling Center (405-744-5472) or one of the University's Sexual Assault Victim Advocates (Mon-Fri 8 AM-5 PM, 405-564-2129 or 24 Hour Help Line 405-624-3020).

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

1202 W. Farm Rd #155/405-744-7116/<http://sds.okstate.edu/>

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, each student with a disability is responsible for notifying the University of the disability and requesting accommodations. If you think you have a qualifying disability and need accommodations, contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services to start the registration process and to ensure timely implementation of appropriate accommodations. To receive services, you must submit appropriate documentation and complete an intake process to verify the existence of a qualified disability and identify reasonable accommodations. Faculty have an obligation to respond when they receive official notice of accommodations but are under no obligation to provide retroactive accommodations.

STUDENT CONDUCT EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION

328 Student Union/405-744-5470/<http://studentconduct.okstate.edu/>

By enrolling at Oklahoma State University, you accept responsibility for complying with all University policies and contracts, and for local, state and federal laws on- or off-campus that relate to the University's mission. The Student Code of Conduct educates students about their civic and social responsibilities including policies and procedures involving student misconduct.

In general, the University expects students to aspire to follow and promote the Cowboy Community Standards or integrity, community, social justice, respect, and responsibility.