Religion 1103: Introduction to World Religions

Instructor: Jessica Doyle

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(Please allow 24 hours for email response)

Course Time and Location: CRN 70726 TR 1:30-2:45 PS 141

Office Hours: by appointment and via Zoom (email to schedule a meeting)

Course Objectives: This course will introduce students to religions from around the world and students will gain the tools to study and discuss those religions objectively in an academic setting. Students will gain the tools to analyze the concepts of religion and how it applies to the study of different cultures and beliefs.


Grading: Three midterm exams will account for 15% of the final grade (each) and the final exam will account for 25% of the student’s final grade. The Religion Responses will account for 30% of the student’s final grade.

Lectures and Attendance: The plan is to have in-class lectures which will be simultaneously streamed via Zoom or Canvas’ Big Blue Button. Students attending class virtually will be able to see my computer screen (slides, written information, images, etc.) as well as hear my voice. These virtual meetings will be recorded and made available to students in Canvas.

Due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no penalties for absences in this class.

If you are at a high risk for COVID-19 or otherwise feel uncomfortable attending class, please feel free to attend virtually. If you are sick—even if it does not appear to be related to COVID-19—please stay home!

However, if you do attend class in person, there will be an assigned seating chart and attendance will be taken before each lecture. This has been mandated in order to help with contact tracing in the event students test positive for COVID-19.

Finally, for the health of all students and faculty, office hours this semester will be held completely virtually. I will hold office hours using Zoom. To set up a meeting, please contact me via email.

Religion Responses: For each religion covered in this course, students will be expected to write a response and analysis which highlights the observable aspects that we can examine as we study that particular religion. Emphasis should be given to concepts like historical accuracy and descriptive accuracy. The total for completing all 12 assignments will account for 30% of the student’s final grade.
Classroom Procedure: Students should maintain proper behavior in this course. Interactions and discussions should be done with respect and compassion given to others.

Disability Procedures: Accommodation letters should be received by the instructor as soon as possible to ensure adequate accommodations are available.

Additional Information: Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the Syllabus Attachment at the following link. This attachment has information about Covid-19 and university policy regarding that as well as information about university policies on drop and withdrawal and university schedules.

https://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/sites/default/files/Fall%202020%20Syllabus%20Attachment%20as%20of%20June%2030%202020.pdf

Academic Integrity: All students should familiarize themselves with the Academic Integrity policy at the link provided below. This policy will be strictly enforced in this course. If you have questions or concerns about the policy, please ask before submitting any work that may cause an issue.

https://adminfinance.okstate.edu/site-files/documents/policies/academic-integrity-policy.pdf

Course Schedule:

8/18  What is Religion and how do we study religions in an academic setting?

8/20  Indigenous religions of North America

8/25  Indigenous religions of North America

8/27  Religion Response 1 due by 11:59 pm

Indigenous religions of Africa

9/1   Indigenous religions of Africa

9/3   Religion Response 2 due by 11:59 pm

Hinduism

9/8   Hinduism

9/10  Religion Response 3 due by 11:59 pm

Buddhism

9/15  Buddhism

9/17  Exam 1
9/22  Religion Response 4 due by 11:59 pm
       Jainism

9/24  Jainism

9/29  Religion Response 5 due by 11:59 pm
       Sikhism

10/1  Sikhism

10/6  Religion Response 6 due by 11:59 pm
       Confucianism/Daoism

10/8  Confucianism/Daoism

10/13 Religion Response 7 due by 11:59 pm
       Shinto

10/15 Shinto

10/20 Exam 2

10/22 Religion Response 8 due by 11:59 pm
       Zoroastrianism

10/27 Zoroastrianism

10/29 Religion Response 9 due by 11:59 pm
       Judaism

11/3  Judaism

11/5  Religion Response 10 due by 11:59 pm
       Christianity

11/10 Christianity

11/12 Religion Response 11 due by 11:59 pm
       Islam

11/17 Islam

11/17 Islam
11/19   Exam
11/24-11/26 No Class
12/1    Religion Response 12 due by 11:59 pm
        New Religious Movements (class meetings will be virtual)
12/3    New Religious Movements (class meeting will be virtual)
12/10   Final Exam 2:00-3:50

Reading Schedule:

        Chapter 1 and 2, Invitation to World Religions
Week 2: Chapter 2 and 3, Invitation to World Religions
Week 3: Chapter 3 and 4, Invitation to World Religions
Week 4: Chapter 4 and 5, Invitation to World Religions
Week 5: Chapter 5, Invitation to World Religions
Week 6: Chapter 6, Invitation to World Religions
Week 7: Chapter 7, Invitation to World Religions
Week 8: Chapter 8, Invitation to World Religions
Week 9: Chapter 9, Invitation to World Religions
Week 10: Chapter 10, Invitation to World Religions
Week 11: Chapter 10 and 11, Invitation to World Religions
Week 12: Chapter 11 and 12, Invitation to World Religions
Week 13: Chapter 12 and 13, Invitation to World Religions
Week 14: Chapter 13, Invitation to World Religions
Week 15: Chapter 14, Invitation to World Religions

**Additional Notes: Because of the uncertainty of Covid-19 and its impact on the university, this syllabus is subject to change. Any major changes will communicated via email.**