Oklahoma State University

REL 1103 Introduction to World Religions
Spring 2022

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

- REL 1103-22154 MWF 10:30am-11:20am (Social Sciences and Humanities 035)
- REL 1103-22153 MWF 11:30am-12:20pm (Life Science West 103)

DELIVERY METHOD

- For the first 2 weeks this semester, the classes will be only online: Go to Canvas > BigBlueButton. You do not need to come to physical classrooms.
- For the rest of the semester, the classes will be fully in-person with masks strongly recommended.
- When we have active Covid-19 cases in our classrooms, the delivery method and mask policy will change accordingly according to the OSU policy. Thank you very much in advance for your understanding and flexibility.

INSTRUCTOR
NAME: Jin Young Kim (jinkim@okstate.edu)
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 2:30-4:30pm (254 Social Sciences & Humanities or Via Zoom - send an email for an appointment)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
*Check who is going to be your primary TA (contact your TA for quickest and most accurate answers)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Student Last Name falls under</th>
<th>Primary TA Info</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-G</td>
<td>Zachariah Schelin (<a href="mailto:zscheli@okstate.edu">zscheli@okstate.edu</a>)</td>
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Traditional Australian Aboriginal Fire Dance
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 (10:30am or 11:30am 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 UPDATES: When we come back to in-person lectures, I highly recommend wearing masks in our classrooms since our room does not allow social distancing and there are more than 100 people in a closed space.

“OSU encourages you to wear a mask indoors in public settings 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)


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 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:

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<tr>
<th>Total (100%; 100 points)</th>
<th>Explanation (For due dates, see the Course Schedule below)</th>
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| Attendance/ Participation participation (20%; 20 points) | **● Attendance is required and vital for your success in this course.**  
**● You will lose approximately half point (0.5 points) for every absence or failure to participate.** |
| Reading Journals (20%; 20 points) | **● Prothero, *God Is Not One*. Read chapters on Introduction, Yoruba Religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam. (Introduction: 2 points; other chapters: 3 points)** |
| Midterm Exam (20%) | **● 50 min in-class. Closed book (up to Buddhism).** |
| Final Exam (20%; 20 points) | **● 2 hour in-class. Closed book (non-accumulative. Up to Atheism).** |
| Artifact Research Paper (10%; 10 points) | **● Format: Minimum 2-pages (single spaced; 4 pages if double spaced), Times New Roman, 12pt, standard margin.**  
**● Details TBA** |
| Create your Own Religion Paper (10%; 10 points) | **● Format: Minimum 3 pages (single spaced; 6 pages if double spaced), Times New Roman, 12pt, standard margin.**  
**● Details TBA** |
Bonus points

- Random and varies.
- Guest talks, documentary films and reflections, etc.
- Use this to recover your lost points from attendance/participation, assignments, and exams.

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 (405-7445470). 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.