



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2020 Summer Program

RELG 101 Introduction to Religion

Course Outline

Term: June 22-July 17, 2020

Class Hours: 8:00-10:30 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: RELG 101

Instructor: Oidinposha Imamkhodjaeva

Home Institution: Penn State University at University Park

Office Hours: TBA

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Credit : 4

Class Hours: This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, 10 lecturer office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

Course Description:

If you walked down the streets of almost any city of the United States in 1950, you would not have found much religious diversity, compared to now. You would have expected to see Catholic and Protestant churches and Jewish synagogues. When people thought about religious diversity, their thinking was limited to Protestants, Catholics and Jews. Today, many cities in the United States, as a result of economic integration and globalization, have become places of much more diverse religious and cultural beliefs and practices. You can find Orthodox Russian and Ukrainian churches, Korean Zen centers, Buddhist and Hindu Temples and Muslim mosques. Despite their diversity and cultural differences, there are fundamental shared beliefs among major world religions. In Christianity, there are core beliefs, shared by all denominations, and the same applies to other world religions. In order to understand world religions we have to study their foremost basic principles. Ethics originates in religion. Therefore to study world religions provides us with an understanding of questions of morality. The idea of pluralism has deep roots in religion. In fact, pluralism and tolerance are built into all world religions. So in this Introduction to World Religions course, we will learn the basic beliefs and patterns of major world religions and learn how these world religions tackle the question of religious pluralism and tolerance.



Course Outcomes: By the end of the course, you will:

1. Recognize how one can study the diverse religious traditions of the world in a scholarly manner.
2. Be able to describe how individual religious traditions operate as self-sufficient intellectual systems, complete with their own characteristic logical and philosophical foundations.
3. Identify the intellectual foundations of different religious systems which contribute to the development of specific beliefs and rituals within a particular religious culture.
4. Be able to describe the specific social and historical contexts within which individual traditions may have evolved.
5. Distinguish some of the major religious scriptures and learn how they are experienced by the religious communities themselves (hear recordings of scriptural passages as read or sung within the context of a religious ceremony).
6. Be able to discuss the relevance of religion in modern life, and be aware of the diversity of religious perspectives in modern civic society.
7. Learn what religious tolerance may mean in an increasingly diverse American society of the twenty-first century.
8. Be able to engage in a well-informed conversation on the diversity of religious beliefs and their underlying foundations.

Required Texts: All the readings for the online version of Religious Studies 001 are posted online. These readings are based on various texts and online sources. The following list of texts provides a selected bibliography of sources I have used in preparing the online readings.

1. Chapters 1, 3, 4 and 5 from *The Hindu Religious Tradition* by Thomas J. Hopkins. Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont, California.
2. Chapters 2, 4, 5, and 6 from *Buddhism* by Damien Keown. Oxford University Press. Oxford New York.
3. Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5 from *The Jewish People: Their History and Religion* by David J. Goldberg and John D. Rayner. Penguin Books. New York.
4. Pages 280-315, *Religions of the World*, Hopfe and Woodward, Pearson-Prentice Hall.
5. Chapters 2 and 3 in *Islam: A Very Short Introduction* by Ruthven, Malise Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6. Pages 181-267 in *World Religions Today* by John L Esposito, Darell J. Fashing, and Todd Lewis. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The texts for the Chinese tradition are fully online.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend every class and arrive to class on time. Remember that each class period is going to cover almost as much material as a 16-week class would cover in a week. Arriving late will result in a 2% penalty to semester grade per class. An unexcused absence will result in a 5% penalty to semester grade, and only 1 absence for the semester can be excused, regardless of reason.

Recordings: Students are allowed and even encouraged to record lectures if they wish.

Academic dishonesty: any student found to have cheated on an exam will get an F for that exam. Cheating on more than 1 exam will automatically result in a failing grade for the course.



Grading & Evaluations:

Class Participation – Weekly Reading Questions. Each week in module 2 (lessons 2-12) and Module 3, students are expected to submit two reading questions by Friday at 11pm. The purpose of the reading questions is to engage more deeply with the readings and to think critically about the lessons. The reading questions can ask for clarification on the material in the lesson, dig deeper into a particular area of interest, or make connections to other areas in the course.

Multiple Choice Exams. At the end of each unit in module two, students will complete a multiple choice exam, for a total of three exams. Each exam is worth 20% of the final course grade. See the course calendar for specific dates.

Final Paper – Religious Tolerance. Students will write a final paper demonstrating their understanding of the course theme of religious tolerance and mastery of course material, to be submitted the last week of class. Students will submit an outline of the paper at the end of lesson 1, and submit a body paragraph at the end of each unit in module 2 for completion credit and feedback. The submission of the paper components (outline & 3 body paragraphs) counts for 5% of the final grade, while the final paper is worth 25%.

Grading Policy	Graded Assignments	Percent of Final Grade
A= 100%-90%	Reading Questions	10%
B= 89%-80%	Unit 1 Exam	20%
C=79% -70%	Unit 2 Exam	20%
D=69%-60%	Unit 3 Exam	20%
F=59% - 0%	Final Paper	30%

Total 100%

Grade	Quality Points	Percentage
A	4.0	93.0%-100%
A-	3.67	90.0%-92.9%
B+	3.33	87.0%-89.9%
B	3.00	83.0%-86.9%
B-	2.67	80.0%-82.9%
C+	2.33	77.0%-79.9%
C	2.00	73.0%-76.9%
C-	1.67	70.0%-72.9%
D+	1.33	67.0%-69.9%
D	1.00	60.0%-66.9%
F	0	59.9 or below



Course Schedule:

Week1

June 22 Academic Study of Religion

June 23 Indus Valley Civilization and the early Indo European Immigrants

June 24 Indus Valley Civilization and the early Indo European Immigrants

June 25 The Moksha and Dharma Ideals

Week 2

June 29 The Moksha and Dharma Ideals

June 30 Social and Religious Responses to the Upanishads

July 1 Buddhism: From One Man's Answer to a World Religion

July 2 The Syncretic Ideals of Wisdom in the Far East

Week 3

July 6 – The Philosophical Ideals of the Confucian School

July 7 – Taoism and East Asian Buddhist Thought

July 8 – The Western Monotheistic Traditions

July 9 -The Western Monotheistic Traditions

Week 4

July 13 – Christianity

July 14 - History of Christianity in Europe and the Rise of Islam

July 15 - Islam - Its History and its Practices

July 16 - Future Directions in the Study of Diverse Traditions