

World Religions

Introduction

Welcome to World Religions! Because this is an academic course on religion, you should expect to study a number of religions from a critical/investigative perspective. We will study all religions, including one you may believe in, from the perspective of a curious outsider. You should not expect to come to believe the traditions we'll study, but you should expect to understand why someone else might. In signing up for this course, you agree to learn about diverse religious experiences. The intent of this class is to create an academic environment to safely learn about other cultures and their theological beliefs. A desire or unwillingness to explore other faiths may make this class not a good fit for you and I encourage you to visit the counseling office within the first few days to consider other scheduling options.

Purpose

"Religion has always been with us. Throughout history, it has expressed the deepest questions human beings can ask, and it has taken a central place in the lives of virtually all civilizations and cultures. As we think all the way back to the dawn of human consciousness, we find religion everywhere we turn.

Overall, religion is powerful and persistent, and it shows no signs of disappearing. It provokes heartfelt commitment, eloquent expression, forthright action, and intense debate. For both practitioners and observers - for everyone who wants to be informed about the world around them - religion is an intensely curious phenomenon that calls out for better understanding." ~ American Academy of Religion

Our Classroom is an Open-minded & Safe Space

"Meaningful and constructive dialogue is encouraged in this class and requires mutual respect, a willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view. Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained at all times in this class. One's choice of words and use of language is a critical component of respectful discourse as we work together to achieve the full benefits of creating a classroom in which all people can feel comfortable expressing themselves." ~ CSUN, Office of Equity and Diversity

Course Outline

First ½ of the Semester

1. Nature of Religion
2. Origins of Religion/Primal Religions
3. Hinduism
4. Buddhism
5. Judaism
6. Christianity
7. Islam

Second ½ of the Semester: Student Choice

Individual students will propose religions* from around the world and across time that interest them. Students will then get to vote on their 3 preferred proposals and the 4-5 that receive the highest number of votes will be covered*. We won't know at the beginning of the semester what will be chosen, so if that's an issue for you or your family, please evaluate your interest in the course 😊

* As the teacher, I have veto power to any proposals that are problematic for the course

Grading Policy:

Classwork/ Daily Grades: 40%

- *any assignment where the majority of the work is done by students individually, in class*

Participation & Homework: 20%

- *HW: any assignment where the majority of the work is done by students individually, at home*
- *Participation: any assignment where the majority of the work is done as a class or in groups (ex: warm-up, exit slips, class polls, student break-out groups, discussions, etc.)*

Major Assessments/Projects: 40%

Make-up Work: In the case of excused absences, students will have a number of days equal to that of their absence to turn in make-up work without penalty. After the allotted make-up period has passed late penalties will be put in place.

Late Work: Late Work: Work is considered on time when turned in as instructed by the teacher (by beginning of class, by 11:59 in Canvas, etc.). From that point forward, students have 24 hours to turn the late work in for a maximum of a 70. **After 24 hours**, students may turn late work in for a maximum of a 50. In the instance that work is of a nature with a set list of correct answers and those answers have been returned, late work will not be accepted (students will be given reminders before this occurs).

Examples:

- Assignment is due Monday at the start of the class period, student turns in assignment same class day, later time, maximum grade is a 70% on the assignment.
- Assignment was due 2nd period on Monday, if in by 2nd period Tuesday it's a maximum of 70; if not, you have until the following Monday at 2nd period to get it in for a 50.

Re-Take Policy:

- Not to exceed 2 retakes per grading cycle, Final Exams are not eligible
- Maximum retake score is 70, (score of 70 to 100 = 70)
- The highest grade between the original and the retake is counted.
- The student, not the parent, must request the retake in writing using forms located in Canvas.
- Student must request the retake within 24 hours of grade being posted
- Retakes are for in-class assessments, such as quizzes and/or tests only
- Student must fill out a retake form and complete the required remediation as listed on the form.
- If there are multiple retakes in the same day, it is the student's responsibility to reschedule with the teacher in advance. No shows counts as a taken retake

Parent Responsibilities:

- **Create and monitor a PowerSchool account for your child**, you can set alerts for low grades, missing work and absences that will send text messages to your phone if consistent internet connectivity is an issue
- **Together, you and I can create the best learning opportunities for your child!**

Student Name Printed Clearly: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

- Students will be given one copy to be signed and returned, a PDF will be available on the school website and Canvas