



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

REL 110 World Religions

Term: May 27 – June 27, 2019

Instructor: Nate Bulthuis

Home Institution: Colgate University

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: To be determined

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

Religious beliefs and practice have been and remain a dominant force in human culture. This course is intended to be a general introduction to the origin, history, beliefs, and practices of religious traditions originating in India (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism), China (Confucianism, Taoism), and Japan (Shintoism), as well as the major Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), indigenous or oral religious traditions, and new religious movements. Ideally, students should exit this course with a sense of what religion is, as well as how various religious adherents understand the world and their place within it. We will also think seriously throughout this course about the role that these religions do play, and should play, in the modern world. Because of the breadth and depth of religious practices, the course can provide only a summary introduction to various faith traditions. But it should equip students to understand what motivates and underpins various faiths, and allow them to gain an understanding of them regardless of their own religious background and beliefs.

Course Goals:

The proximate goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the history, beliefs and practices of the world's major religions. The expectation, however, is that such an understanding will allow students to engage individuals of different religious perspectives in an open and productive manner.

Required Textbooks:

IWR: Oxtoby, Willard. *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*, 3rd edition (Oxford University Press, 2011). ISBN: 978-0199008551

ST: Novak, Philip. *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions*. HarperOne, 2011.
 ISBN: 978-1269365352

Hesse, Herman. *Siddhartha*. Bantam, 1982. ISBN: 978-0553208849.

Grading Policy:

Grading will be determined by a combination of class attendance and participation, short quizzes at the beginning of some lectures (1 per week), an essay, and two exams.

Attendance & Participation	200 pts
Quizzes (Cumulative)	100 pts
Essay	200 pts

A 5-7 double-spaced response to Herman Hesse's *Siddhartha*. Write the essay in the form of a letter to Siddhartha's son, explaining to his son what truth about life Siddhartha believed he had discovered, and how your own views agree with / differ from those of Siddhartha.

Exam 1	250 pts
Exam 2	250 pts

Grading Scale:

A	100-90	C	71-68
A-	89-85	C-	67-64
B+	84-82	D	63-60
B	81-78	F	Below 60
B-	77-75		
C+	74-72		

Class Rules:

Students are expected to come to lecture having **read** to material assigned for the day, and to be prepared to **engage in active discussion** about that material, especially during the "Discussion Day" for each week, where we engage with primary texts from a faith tradition. Students should also be ready to follow standard academic rules about academic dishonesty (or "plagiarism"). **No handheld electronic devices** of any kind will be allowed in class. Laptops are allowed for note-taking purposes only.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for all course lectures.

Course Schedule:

Date	Notes	Class Material + Activity	Topics
Week 1			
Day 1		IWR, "About Religion" (optional)	Introduction: What is Religion?
Day 2		IWR, "Indigenous Traditions"	Oral Religious Traditions
Day 3		IWR, "Hindu Traditions"	Hinduism I
Day 4		ST, "Hinduism" + Discussion Day	Hinduism II
Week 2			
Day 1		IWR, "Jaina Traditions" & "Sikh Traditions"	Jainism and Sikhism
Day 2		IWR, "Buddhist Traditions"	Buddhism I
Day 3		ST, "Buddhism" + Discussion Day	Buddhism II
Day 4		IWR, "Japanese Religious Traditions"	Shintoism
Week 3			
Day 1	Essay	IWR, "Chinese Religious Traditions"	Introduction to Chinese Religions
Day 2		ST, "Confucianism" + Discussion Day	Confucianism
Day 3		ST, "Taoism" + Exam Review	Taoism
Day 4	Exam 1		
Week 4			
Day 1		IWR, "Jewish Traditions"	Judaism I
Day 2		ST, "Judaism" + Discussion Day	Judaism II
Day 3		IWR, "Christian Traditions"	Christianity I
Day 4		ST, "Christianity" + Discussion Day	Christianity II
Week 5			
Day 1		IWR, "Muslim Traditions"	Islam I
Day 2		ST, "Islam" + Discussion Day	Islam II
Day 3		IWR, "New Religions" + Exam Review	New Religions and Movements
Day 4	Exam 2		