



University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

REL 110 World Religions

Term: June 12th – July 7th, 2023

Instructor: TBD

Home Institution: TBD

Email: TBD

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

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion session: 2 hours each week

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, including Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism, and Islam, including Sufism and Shiism), indigenous or oral religious traditions, and new religious movements. Ideally, students should exit this course with a sense of what religion is and the methods by which academics in the field of religious studies examine it, 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, as well as the methods by which scholar engage in the academic study of religion. 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.

Assignments:

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

Quizzes (Cumulative) 400 pts

Essay 300 pts

A 4-5 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 1 150 pts

Exam 2 150 pts

Grading Scale:

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

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

Academic Integrity:

Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding academic honesty. The University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) expects students to be honest in their academic work. Academic dishonesty is viewed as a serious violation of university rules and such misconduct is not accepted by academic community. In particular, students must refrain from plagiarism, cheating and collusion in connection with examinations, submitting substantially the same piece of work to different classes and must fully acknowledge all the sources of ideas and all assistance received in work submitted to the instructor for evaluation. Violation of the rules of academic honesty may lead to suspension or disqualification of the student from further study at UIBE.

Attendance Policy:

Summer school is very intense and students need to attend every class to be successful. Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. UIBE policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any unexcused absence may affect the student's grade. Moreover, UIBE policy is that a student who has more than 1/3 of the class in unexcused absences will fail the course.

Course Schedule:

The planned schedule is subject to change as the course progresses.

Weeks	Notes	Reading
Unit 1: Studying Religion (Week 1) 1. Introduction 2. Early Patterns in Human Religiosity 3. Advanced Patterns in Human Religiosity 4. The Study of Religion	Quiz #1	IWR, pp. 3-9; ST, pp. 354-371 IWR, pp. 9-23 IWR, pp. 23-29
Unit #2: Indigenous Religions (Week 1) 5. Defining Indigenous Religions 6. Orality in Indigenous Religion 7. Indigenous Practices and Cultural Expressions 8. Colonialism and Recent Developments	Quiz #2	IWR, pp. 31-42 IWR, pp. 42-49; ST, pp. 334-354 IWR, pp. 49-63 IWR, pp. 63-87
Unit #3: Hinduism (Week 2) 9. Hindu Origins 10. Classical Hinduism 11. Hindu Schools 12. Hindu Practices and Rituals	Quiz #3	IWR, pp. 280-291; ST, pp. 2-23 IWR, pp. 291-303; ST, pp. 24-40 IWR, pp. 303-316; ST, pp. 40-48 IWR, pp. 316-335
Unit #4: Jainism (Week 2) 13. Jain Origins 14. Jain Practices and Developments	Quiz #4	IWR, pp. 343-356 IWR, pp. 356-377
Unit #5: Buddhism (Week 2) 15. The Buddha 16. Dharma, Sangha, and the First Vehicle 17. Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism		IWR, pp. 378-389 IWR, pp. 390-403; ST, pp. 65-77 IWR, pp. 403-422; ST, pp. 77-

18. Buddhism in the Modern World	Quiz #5	109 IWR, pp. 422-441
Unit #6: East Asian Religions (Week 3)		
19. Religion in the Qin and Han Dynasties		IWR, pp. 478-505; ST, pp. 111-144
20. Chinese Religion in the Common Era		IWR, pp. 505-527; ST, pp. 145-174
21. Religion in Korea		IWR, pp. 527-543
22. Religion in Japan	Quiz #6	IWR, pp. 544-577
Unit #7: Judaism (Week 3)		
23. Jewish Identity and Early History		IWR, pp. 90-110; ST, pp. 175-213
24. Rabbinic Judaism		IWR, pp. 110-126; ST, pp. 213-226
25. Judaism Today	Quiz #7	IWR, pp. 126-151
Unit #8: Christianity (Week 3)		
26. Christian Origins		IWR, pp. 152-174; ST, pp. 227-254
27. Medieval and Early Modern Christianity		IWR, pp. 174-194; ST, pp. 254-279
28. Christianity in the Modern Era to Today	Quiz #8	IWR, pp. 194-217
Unit #9: Islam (Week 4)		
29. Origins of Islam		IWR, pp. 218-236; ST, pp. 281-311
30. Islamic Practice and Variety		IWR, pp. 236-253; ST, pp. 312-332
31. Islamic Spread and Expression	Quiz #9	IWR, pp. 253-279
Unit #10: Sikhism (Week 4)		
32. Origins of Sikhism		IWR, pp. 442-460
33. Sikh Practice, Expression, and Adaptation	Final Exam	IWR, pp. 460-477