



University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

REL 110 World Religions

Term: June 12th – July 7th, 2023

Instructor: Nate Bulthuis

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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)

Location: WEB

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

Class Rules:

Students are expected to watch course videos having **read** to material assigned for the day, and to be prepared to **engage in active discussion** on the discussion boards about that material. Students should also be ready to follow standard academic rules about academic dishonesty (or “plagiarism”).

Course Schedule:

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

Video	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 18. Buddhism in the Modern World	Quiz #5	IWR, pp. 378-389 IWR, pp. 390-403; ST, pp. 65-77 IWR, pp. 403-422; ST, pp. 77-109 IWR, pp. 422-441
Unit #6: East Asian Religions (Week 3)		
19. Religion in the Qin and Han Dynasties 20. Chinese Religion in the Common Era		IWR, pp. 478-505; ST, pp. 111-144 IWR, pp. 505-527; ST, pp. 145-

<p>21. Religion in Korea 22. Religion in Japan</p>	<p>Quiz #6</p>	<p>174 IWR, pp. 527-543 IWR, pp. 544-577</p>
<p>Unit #7: Judaism (Week 3)</p>		
<p>23. Jewish Identity and Early History 24. Rabbinic Judaism 25. Judaism Today</p>	<p>Quiz #7</p>	<p>IWR, pp. 90-110; ST, pp. 175-213 IWR, pp. 110-126; ST, pp. 213-226 IWR, pp. 126-151</p>
<p>Unit #8: Christianity (Week 3)</p>		
<p>26. Christian Origins 27. Medieval and Early Modern Christianity 28. Christianity in the Modern Era to Today</p>	<p>Quiz #8</p>	<p>IWR, pp. 152-174; ST, pp. 227-254 IWR, pp. 174-194; ST, pp. 254-279 IWR, pp. 194-217</p>
<p>Unit #9: Islam (Week 4)</p>		
<p>29. Origins of Islam 30. Islamic Practice and Variety 31. Islamic Spread and Expression</p>	<p>Quiz #9</p>	<p>IWR, pp. 218-236; ST, pp. 281-311 IWR, pp. 236-253; ST, pp. 312-332 IWR, pp. 253-279</p>
<p>Unit #10: Sikhism (Week 4)</p>		
<p>32. Origins of Sikhism 33. Sikh Practice, Expression, and Adaptation</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>	<p>IWR, pp. 442-460 IWR, pp. 460-477</p>