

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614
(309) 692-4092 (800) 251-4299

Spring 2016

Course: HUM 130 World Religions (IAI H5 904N)

Credit: 4 Quarter Hours

Method of Delivery: Classroom

Course Description: An introductory examination of the major Eastern and Western religions. Basic principles of the world's great religious traditions will be compared and contrasted. Religions studied will be selected from among the following: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Prerequisite: ENG 116 Composition

Text(s) & Manual(s): *Experiencing the World's Religions, 5th edition*

Author(s): Molloy, Michael

Publisher: McGraw Hill

ISBN-13: 978-0-07-340750-0

Materials needed for this course: n/a

Topics will include, given time, all of the following:

1. The nature and character of religion
2. Primal religions and religions of antiquity
3. Hinduism
4. Buddhism
5. Jainism and Sikhism
6. Confucianism and Daoism
7. Shinto
8. Judaism
9. Christianity
10. Islam
11. Alternate Paths (Baha'i, Druidism, Rastafarianism, Wicca, Voodoo, Scientology, Celebrating the Goddess, Santeria, Candomblé, Paganism, Theosophy, Falun Gong, Cao Dai, etc.)
12. The Modern Search (The New World Order, Multiculturalism and Interfaith Dialogue, Women's Rights Movements, Reassessment of Human Sexuality Science and Technology, Secularism, Environmental Challenges, etc)

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the major world religions.
2. Use the vocabulary of religion.
3. Demonstrate the ability to read and understand studies of religion.
4. Describe the basic patterns of religions.
5. Describe a variety of cultural and religious traditions.
6. Explain the relationships between religion and civilization.
7. Distinguish among the major world religions, their myths and beliefs.
8. Describe cross-cultural relationships.

Instructor's Grading scale:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

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Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is using another person's words without giving credit to the author. Original speeches, publications, and artistic creations are sources for research. If students use the author's words in a paper or assignment, they must acknowledge the source. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of the college and is grounds for failing the course. If repeated, plagiarism may result in suspension from the college. (See the Midstate College catalog and/or Student Handbook for additional information.)

In courses containing writing assignments, the college promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success

The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success in Room 218 (in person); (309) 692-4092, extension 2180 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

Instructor: Carole Hoke

Room/phone: 208

Midstate email: cjhoke@midstate.edu

Office Hours: I am available by email or phone 309.839-5231 during most school hours.

Policies and Procedures:

- Cellphones must be turned off in class or placed on vibrate. If an emergency call must be taken, notify the instructor prior to the class, and excuse yourself from the classroom to take the call.
- Points will be given for attendance; points will be deducted for arriving late and for leaving early. If you must leave early, please notify the instructor prior to the class.
- The class, including the instructor, will take a civility pledge, a reminder to be respectful toward one another during discussions, when questions are asked, or when someone needs help with a concept or is confused with one of the religious tenets. Wars have been fought over religion and some folks will have difficulty separating their faith practices from the academic endeavor. It will be up to all of us to remain in the academic mindset in order to discuss the world's religions with integrity. Also, the Post Test is required. Do not forget to do the Post Test.
- Written assignments are to be turned in with the student's name, date, and name/title/week of the assignment at the top. Assignments are to be turned in on time.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. For any assignment handed in to the instructor, citations must be given for any work that is not the original work of the student. It will not be a matter of failing an assignment, it may result in failing the class. Please use Turn It In to check your work. Know that the instructor will check assignments.
- All assignments will be typed.

Each class period will be divided into several components, not necessarily in the same order:

- Journaling (You will turn in your journal each week, but you may want to share)
- Review of week's reading material or material not completed in the prior week
- Class presentations
- Homework handout sheets with assignments to be turned in the following week
- Lecture (Including Guest Lectures)
- Discussion Groups
- Exams (as identified in the syllabus)

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You will be working on class presentations with different members of your class. You will also be working with different members of the class in discussion groups.

Your final paper will be based on your journal entries of each week's religion/s that you find in the world around you. Your journal is to be your own reflections, not an Internet selection about the religion studied for the week.

Wikipedia is **NOT** an acceptable source for any assignment.

The assignments for each class will be handed out the week before the class that they are due. The exception to this will be the presentations that will be assigned during the first class. The assignments will include, but not be limited to: reading assignments, journal assignments, homework papers, exams, and discussion topics.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust this syllabus with proper notice to the students.

This class will be an interactive class and the instructor hopes that students will realize the importance of participation. For that reason, the instructor has asked that students notify the instructor if it becomes difficult to engage in discussion or dialogue. Wars have been fought over religion.

Let's begin the journey!

Assignments:

Make-up Policy:

If a week is missed, students will be expected to complete any missed assignment(s) and be prepared the following week. Assignments will be accepted up to one week late.

- If there is a reason for a delay in delivery of an assignment, it is the student's responsibility to fully discuss the matter with the instructor. No late assignments will be accepted without PRIOR approval.
- Credit for late work is subject to the discretion of the instructor. Success in this course is our focus; we will help in any way we can.

Participation Requirements:

The material presented in this course is highly involved, and builds upon itself. Regular attendance is strongly urged, as once a student falls behind it can be extremely difficult to catch up. Students will be expected to stay within the weekly schedule of assignments. Participation is part of the grade. Remember: This is an academic course; it is not a course to challenge one's faith practice.

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Examination Information:

Exams are short answer and essay questions. They will be completed in class, with an adequate amount of time for completion. Should a student not be present for an exam, the student must make arrangements with the instructor to complete the exam, and/or make prior arrangement to complete the exam.

The five exams ask you to reflect on the material that we have covered, as well as primary themes that are discussed throughout the term. The material covered will come directly from the text, as well as from class discussions.

Methods of evaluating student performance:

Assessments (9% each)	45%
One Paper	15%
Discussion Forum and Summaries	10%
Participation	10%
Homework	20%

Instructor's Grading Scale:

90 - 100	A
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Weekly Class Expectations:

Each class period will be divided into several components, not necessarily in the same order:

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- Review of week's reading material or material not completed in the prior week
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Let's begin the journey!

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Week One and Two – February 23- February 29 2016

Review Syllabus and Class Expectations, Explain Class Format, Assign Presentations, Discussion Groups, Complete Pretest

Topic: Introduction

Objective:

- 1 Use the vocabulary of religion.
- 2 Demonstrate the ability to read and understand studies of religion.
- 3 Identify the key elements of religion.

Assignments:

1. Read Chapters One and Two – Understanding Religion (pp. 3-31) and Indigenous Religions (pp. 33-71)
2. Begin a record/journal of religious images or phrases that you notice during the day (on television and the internet; music lyrics and movie titles, etc.). How do you see religion integrated in the greater culture? What forms/patterns does it take? What issues recur? Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
3. Complete Pretest. Presentation: Understanding Religion and Indigenous Religions
4. Group Discussions
Groups: Groups will be chosen for three weeks at a time. Students are to discuss the questions as a group, bringing their own ideas to the group, and then sharing them with the entire class.

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- 6 Class Discussion

Week Three – March 1 – March 7 20160

Topic: Hinduism

Objective:

- 1 Use the vocabulary of religion
- 2 Demonstrate the ability to read and understand studies of religion.

Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter Three – Hinduism (pp. 73-121)
- 2 Continue your journal finding evidence of Hinduism in the media (movies, television, on the Internet), in the news, in advertising, How is it shared? Give examples. Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
- 3 Quiz: Chapters One and Two.
- 4 Presentations: Hinduism
Presenters: _____
- 5 Complete Homework Handout Assignment
- 6 Group Discussions
- 7 Class Discussion

Week Four – March 8 – March 14 2016

Topic: Buddhism

Objective:

- 1 Describe the basic patterns of religions.
- 2 Describe a variety of cultural and religious traditions.
- 3 Explain the relationships between religion and civilization.

Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter Four – Buddhism (pp. 123-179)
- 2 Continue your journal recording images you find in the world around you that reflect Buddhism, or Buddhist thought and/or practice. Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
- 3 Presentations: Buddhism
Presenters: _____
- 4 Complete Homework Handout Assignment

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- 5 Group Discussions
- 5 Class Discussion

Week Five – March 15 – March 21 2016

Topics: Jainism and Sikhism.

Objective:

- 1. Describe the basic patterns of religions.
- 2. Describe a variety of cultural and religious traditions.
- 3. Explain the relationships between religion and civilization.
- 4. Distinguish among the major world religions, their myths and beliefs.
- 5. Describe cross-cultural relationships.

Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter 5 -- Jainism and Sikhism (pp. 181-203)
- 2 Continue your journal citing the influences of Jainism and Sikhism you find in the world around you. Is it in art, music, or the way people interact? Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
- 3 Quiz: Chapters Three and Four.
- 4 Presentations: Jainism and Sikhism
Presenters: _____
- 5 Complete Homework Handout Assignment
- 6 Group Discussions

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- 6 Class Discussion

Week Six – March 22 – March 28 2016

Topics: Confucianism and Daoism

Objective:

- 1 Describe the major world religions.

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- 2 Use the vocabulary of religion.
- 3 Demonstrate the ability to read and understand studies of religion.

- 4 Describe the basic patterns of religions.

Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter Six – Daoism and Confucianism (pp. 205-253)
- 2 Continue your journal entries making note of the influences of Daoism and Confucianism in our modern culture. Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
- 3 Presentations: Daosim and Confucianism
- 4 Presenters: _____
- 5 Complete Homework Handout Assignment
- 6 Group Discussions
- 7 Class Discussion

Week Seven – March 29 – April 4 2016

Topic: Shinto

Objective:

- 1 Describe the basic patterns of religions.
- 2 Describe a variety of cultural and religious traditions.
- 3 Explain the relationships between religion and civilization
- 4 Distinguish among the major world religions, their myths and beliefs.
- 5 Describe cross-cultural relationships.

Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter Seven – Shinto (pp. 225-279)
- 2 Continue your journal noting whether you find Shinto influences in your daily living. What forms does it take? Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
- 3 Quiz: Chapters Five and Six.
- 4 Presentations: Shinto
Presenters: _____
- 5 Complete Homework Handout Assignment
- 6 Group Discussions
- 7 Class Discussion

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Week Eight – April 5 – April 11 2016

Topic: Judaism

Objective:

1. Describe the major world religions.
2. Use the vocabulary of religion.
3. Demonstrate the ability to read and understand studies of religion.
4. Describe the basic patterns of religions.

Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter Eight -- Judaism (pp. 281-331)

- 2 Continue the Journal experience finding Jewish influences around the community in which you reside. Give examples of where you find these influences (Internet, television, art and music) and what impact they have. Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.

- 3 Presentations: Judaism
- 4 Presenters: _____

- 5 Complete Homework Handout Assignment

- 6 Group Discussions:

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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- 7 Class Discussion

Week Nine – April 12 – April 18 2016

Topic Christianity

Objective:

- 1 Demonstrate the ability to read and understand studies of religion.
- 2 Describe the basic patterns of religions.
- 3 Describe a variety of cultural and religious traditions
- 4 Explain the relationships between religion and civilization

Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter Nine – Christianity (pp. 333-405)

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- 2 Continue your journal finding ways that Christianity is visible in our culture. Cite examples you see/hear around you as well as on the Internet, television and through art, music and stories. What influences do you see? Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
- 3 Presentations: Christianity
- 4 Presenters: _____
- 5 Complete Homework Handout Assignment
- 6 Group Discussions
- 7 Class Discussion

Week Ten – April 19 – April 25 2016

Topic: Islam

Objective:

- 1 Describe the major world religions.
- 2 Use the vocabulary of religion.
- 3 Demonstrate the ability to read and understand studies of religion.

Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter Ten – Islam (pp. 407-469)
- 2 Continue the journal exercise citing ways you see Islam portrayed in our culture. Give examples of where you find these portrayals (Internet, television, radio, art and music) and what influences they have in our culture. Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
- 3 Quiz – Chapters Eight Nine and Ten
- 4 Presentations: Islam
- 5 Presenters: _____
- 6 Complete Homework Handout Assignment
- 7 Group Discussions
- 8 Class Discussion

Week Eleven – April 26 – May 2 2016

Topic: Alternate Paths and The Modern Search

Objective:

1. Describe a variety of cultural and religious traditions.
2. Explain the relationships between religion and civilization.
3. Distinguish among the major world religions, their myths and beliefs.
4. Describe cross-cultural relationships.

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Assignments:

- 1 Read Chapter Eleven – Alternate Paths (pp. 471-505)
- 2 Read Chapter Twelve – The Modern Search (pp. 507-539)
- 3 Continue the journal exercise citing what you see as Alternate Paths The Modern Search in our culture. How are these paths integrated? What signs are there in the media (television and the internet), art, music, etc, Pay attention to the unique places you find images and include your emotional responses.
- 4 Presentations: Alternate Paths
- 5 Presenters: _____
- 6 Presentations: The Modern Search
- 7 Presenters: _____
- 8 Complete Homework Handout Assignment
- 9 Group Discussions

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- 10 Class Discussion

Week Twelve – May 3 2016 – May 9 2016

Topic: Bringing it all together.

Objective:

- 1 Describe the major world religions.
- 2 Use the vocabulary of religion.
- 3 Demonstrate the ability to read and understand studies of religion
- 4 Describe the basic patterns of religions.
- 5 Describe a variety of cultural and religious traditions.
- 6 Explain the relationships between religion and civilization.
- 7 Distinguish among the major world religions, their myths and beliefs.
- 8 Describe cross-cultural relationships.

Assignments:

- 1 Quiz -- Chapters 11 and 12.

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- 2 Using your journal entries and from the study of the various religions and exercises in the class, write a 5-page paper using MLA Style on the role of religion in our culture today. Cite those things that you found to be new to you and those things that have always been a part of your personal religious experience. Were you opened to new ideas and a new respect for religions that you either previously knew nothing about, or for which you had formed opinions based on how your particular traditions views other religious practices? What, if any, stereotypes of different religions were dispelled through your study? What, if any, stereotypes were supported through your study? Would you venture in to a new religion? Why and why not? Many would say that religion is interwoven into our politics, legislation, judicial decisions, and public policy in general? Do you agree or disagree? Have you developed new perspectives of people's practices of religion? From your study do you find a difference between faith and religion? Explain your answer.

- 3 Take the Post Test.

***Presentations Assignments

Week 3 – Hinduism _____

Week 4 – Buddhism _____

Week 5 – Jainism and Sikhism

Week 6 -- Confucianism and Daoism

Week 7 – Shinto _____

Week 8 – Judaism _____

Week 9 – Christianity

Week 10 – Islam _____

Week 11 – Alternate Paths

Week 11 – The Modern Search

Notes or Changes to the Syllabus: