



Syllabus for Religions of the World

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2023

Course ID & Section #: PHIL-15-D5057

Instructor's name: Daniel Dawson

Day/Time of required meetings: Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: A Yard

Course units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: CRDN Main Campus

Office hours: Before and After Class as arranged

Email address: daniel-dawson@redwoods.edu

Catalog Description

An introductory examination of religious thought, experience, and expression associated with living religions of the world. Religions that may be studied include Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Primal.

Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Describe the historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts of various religious traditions and texts.
2. Analyze the philosophical and religious ideas that underlie and are reflected in the practices and sacred texts of various religions, including concepts of nature, ultimate reality, cosmology, and ethics.

Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation

None

Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or Ms. Eagles. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

Student Support

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

Required Materials

Textbook title: Invitation to World Religions

Edition: 4th

Author: Jeffery Brodd, Layne Little, Bradley Nystrom, Robert Platzner, Richard Shek, Erin Styles

ISBN: 978-0-19-754378-8

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Requirements:

- Participation: 20%
- Reflections: 20%
- Midterm exam: 20% (March 9th)
- Final Reflection/Essay: 20% (due by May 4th)
- Final exam: 20% (May 11th)

Grading Scale: 95%—100% = A; 90—94% = A-; 87%—89% = B+; 84%—86% = B; 80%—83% = B-; 75%—79% = C+; 70%—74% = C; 60%—69% = D; 59% or below = F

Participation and Class Discussion

We will best learn from one another. Religion is primarily experiential; it happens to individuals as much as individuals happen to do/practice religion. We will wrestle intellectually together, listen with respect, and learn what we can from those who walk these paths. Come to class with questions. Come to class with thoughts. Come to class prepared, having read the text.

Reflections

Pick ONE of the “For Further Reflection” questions at the end of each chapter. Each answer should be at least a paragraph, 3-6 sentences. Please turn in a physical copy each week. We will also have the opportunity to share these with the class. Your responses will be graded from 0-3 points each: 3—Excellent; answers the question adding your original ideas on the subject. 2—answers the question in a satisfactory manner.; covers the material in the question. 1—partly answers the question. 0—doesn’t answer the question. The purpose of these exercises is to keep us focused and current with the reading. It will make our class time more interesting, as it encourages informed participation. Also, this practice can help prepare us for upcoming exams.

Midterm and Final Exams

Midterm and final exams will be drawn from the textbook and the lecture materials. You can expect words from the end of chapter glossaries as well as the questions that are “For Review” at the end of each chapter.

Reflection/Essay

Pick a religion discussed by Brodd in the textbook, one that is not your own, and engage with it, dance with it, wrestle with it. Provide your best summation of the religion’s history, its major tenants, and/or most influential people. Discuss what that religion offers to its adherents and to the greater community. Is it only a personal/individual religion, is it primarily social, or is it personal/individual and social and if so, how do they balance? Tell me if you think it has potential “downfalls.” (Can people become too legalistic about Judaism? Can people do a little too much navel gazing in Buddhism and forget the social aspects of the Jewels? Can people be so focused on the afterlife in Christianity that they miss the right here, right now messages that are also in the teachings of Jesus?) (These are just a few ideas of potential “downfalls”.)

Your essay should be more than 500 words but not more than 1,000 (?) Make sure you credit the author(s) if you use their words (academic integrity is very important!)

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies

Spring 2023 Dates

- *Classes begin: 01/14/23*
- *Martin Luther King’s Birthday (all campuses closed): 01/16/23*
- *Last day to add a class: 01/20/23*
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 01/27/23*
- *Census date: 01/30/23 or 20% into class duration*
- *Last day to petition to file P/NP option: 02/10/23*
- *Lincoln’s Birthday (all campuses closed): 02/17/23*
- *President’s Day (all campuses closed): 02/20/23*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: 03/02/23*
- *Spring Break (no classes): 03/13/23 – 03/18/23*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): 03/31/23*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund): 03/31/23*
- *Final examinations: 05/06/23 – 05/12/23*
- *Commencement: 05/15/23*
- *Semester ends: 05/12/23*
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately 05/26/23*

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Philosophy 15 Course Outline

Week 1 (Jan 19)	Chapter 1: An Invitation to the Study of World Religions Read Brodd, pages 3-29
Week 2 (Jan 26)	Chapter 2: Indigenous Religions of North America Read Brodd, pages 33-62
Week 3 (Feb 2)	Chapter 3: Indigenous Religions of Africa Read Brodd, pages 67-96
Week 4 (Feb 9)	Chapter 4: Hinduism Read Brodd, pages 103-151
Week 5 (Feb 16)	Chapter 5: Buddhism Read Brodd, pages 157-201
Week 6 (Feb 23)	Chapter 6: Jainism Read Brodd, pages 207-233
Week 7 (Mar 2)	Chapter 7: Sikhism Read Brodd, pages 237-263
Week 8 (Mar 9)	Chapter 8: Chinese Religions: Confucianism and Daoism Read Brodd, pages 267-314

MIDTERM EXAM (Covers Brodd, Chapters 1 through 7)

Week 9 (Mar 16)	SPRING BREAK
Week 10 (Mar 23)	Chapter 9: Shinto Read Brodd, pages 321-347
Week 11 (Mar 30)	Chapter 10: Zoroastrianism Read Brodd, pages 351-378
Week 12 (Apr 6)	Chapter 11: Judaism Read Brodd, pages 383-438
Week 13 (Apr 13)	Chapter 12: Christianity Read Brodd, pages 445-499
Week 14 (Apr 20)	Chapter 13: Islam Read Brodd, pages 505-564
Week 15 (Apr 27)	Chapter 14: New Religious Movements Read Brodd, pages 569-610
Week 16 (May 4)	Final Reflection/Essay Due Review for Final Exam

Week 17 (May 10/11)	Final Exam Covers Brodd Chapters 8-14
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