

Humanities 27/Philosophy 7: World Religions
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:50
Spring 2010

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Office Hours:
Mon. 4:30-5:30
Tues. 11:00-12:30
Wed. 11:00-12:00
Thurs. 11:00-12:30

Overview: This course is a comparative study of some of the major world religions, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. The course addresses the historical origin, growth, major doctrines, rituals, and philosophical presuppositions of each religion under discussion. Humanities 27 is also listed as Philosophy 7; credit will be given in either area, not both. (Catalog Description)

Objectives:

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

1. Identify the key concepts, practices, and figures in Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
2. Compare and contrast Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, in terms of their doctrine, rituals, symbols, and ethics.
3. Trace the history and development of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
4. Compare and contrast the principal branches within Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
5. Describe and analyze the various doctrines, rituals, scriptures, practices, and philosophical presuppositions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
6. Identify, explain, analyze, and evaluate the key ideas and principle argument in modern atheism.

Course Requirements:

- “For each hour of lecture, the course should require two hours of outside of class study (homework) and/or assigned outside of class activity.” (from *California Community Colleges Guidelines for Title 5 Regulations*, Chapter 6, Part 1) Therefore you will be required to spend, on average, six hours per week doing homework.
- Attendance at lecture three hours per week, taking notes.
- On average 100-150 pages of reading/week.
- Three college-level essays (3-5 pages, typed, double-spaced).
- Two essay examinations, including a comprehensive final exam.

Required Texts:

The Bhagavad-Gita (Translated by Barbara Stoler Miller)
The Dhammapada (Translated by Glenn Wallis)
The Tao Te Ching (Translated by Addiss and Lombardo)
The Analects of Confucius (Translated by D. C. Lau)
The Bible (New Revised Standard Version is preferred)
The Qur'an (Translated by M. A. S. Abdel Haleem)
Atheism: A Very Short Introduction (by Julian Baggini)

Evaluation: Letter grades will be assigned for essays and exams. Final grades will be calculated using the standard four-point grading scale.

15% Essay 1
15% Essay 2
15% Essay 3
20 % Midterm
35% Final

Late Work

Essays all essays must be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Essays will be docked a third of a letter grade for every day, or part of day, they are late (i.e., an essay submitted 25 hours late is two days late, and would be docked 2/3 of a letter grade).

Exams must be taken during the date and time assigned unless, in extenuating circumstance, PRIOR arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Study Guides

To stay consistent with the practices of most of my colleagues at UC campuses, I will NOT be distributing study guides for each exam. Here are some tips on prepare for the exam.

- Everything I say in class is important, and may be on the exam.
- Read, re-read, and read again every passage that I read in class.
- Think about the themes of the class and ask how those themes are reflected in the assigned works.
- Take good notes . . . don't just copy meaningless phrases . . . and review those notes. See: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/notes.html>

Classroom Conduct

Disruptive students will be asked to leave the class. I invite your comments and questions, but ask that you raise your hand or otherwise wait to be acknowledged before offering your comments or questions. Talking, texting, or writing notes to other students in the class is considered disruptive behavior and you will be asked to leave the class. After being asked to leave the class for the second time, you will be referred to the college administration for disciplinary action.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES.

Talking on your cell phone during class time is absolutely prohibited.

Texting is also prohibited except in the case of personal emergencies or urgent messages from employers. If such a situation arises, you should quickly and unobtrusively deal with the message. If such a situation requires extended and immediate interaction on your part, please quietly leave the classroom to conduct your urgent business. Extensive texting during lecture will lead to my asking you to leave the class for the rest of the day.

I permit the use of laptop computers for the purpose of taking notes. All other uses are prohibited during class time.

I will make every effort to begin and end class on time and I expect you to do the same. I understand that any of us may, on occasion have to arrive late or leave early, but for the sake of the other students in the class I ask you to remain seated during the class period (unless it is an emergency).

If you must leave class early, please sit near an exit and do so quietly.

On Plagiarism

plagiarize /'pledʒz/ (also **plagiarise**)

→ **verb**

[with obj.] take (the work or an idea of someone else) and pass it off as one's own.

• take the work or an idea of (someone) and pass it off as one's own.

- DERIVATIVES **plagiarizer** *noun* .

(From: "plagiarize verb" *The Oxford Dictionary of English* (revised edition). Ed. Catherine Soanes and Angus Stevenson. Oxford University Press, 2005. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. Irvine Valley College. Accessed: 8 January 2008 <http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t140.e59317>)

From the IVC Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Plagiarism is any conduct in academic work or programs involving misrepresentation of someone else's words, ideas or data as one's original work, including, but not limited to, the following.

1. intentionally representing as one's own work the work, words, ideas or arrangement of ideas, research, formulae, diagrams, statistics, evidence of another.
2. taking sole credit for ideas and/or written work that resulted from a collaboration with others.
3. paraphrasing or quoting material without citing the source in the text.
4. submitting as one's own a copy of or the actual work of another person, either in part or in entirety, without appropriate citation (e.g., term-paper mill or internet derived products).
5. sharing computer files and programs or written papers and then submit individual copies of the results as one's own individual work.
6. submitting substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization from each instructor involved.
7. modifying another's work and representing it as one's own work.

Students caught plagiarizing will receive an "F" for the assignment and may be reported to the college administration for disciplinary action.

A NOTE ON EXAMS

Purpose: The primary purpose of the exam is to evaluate your mastery of the texts, concepts, and methods developed in the course. The purpose of the exam is not to see if you are “naturally smart” or a “good test-taker,” neither is it to evaluate what you may have learned in high school, other classes, or on Wikipedia.

Format: You can expect the exam questions to be challenging, requiring you to demonstrate a combination of knowledge, insight, and skill in responding to the questions. You will write a paragraph or two in response to questions that focus on material and ideas covered in class.

Evaluation:

A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sophisticated in statement and insight• Comprehensive; every question is answered completely• Numerous relevant details demonstrating mastery of material• Represents the best responses given to this exam
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competent, college-level response• Complete; every question is answered competently• Answers supported by details from assigned texts• Represents superior understanding of course material
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• College-level response• Relatively complete. Responded to every question, but some questions are incomplete, misguided, or incorrect.• Answers tend to be vague with relatively few supporting details.• Represents minimally satisfactory understanding of course material
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not college-level discourse• Incomplete. Failed to answer some of the questions or answers are clearly incorrect, vague, or even misleading• Virtually no supporting details; mostly broad generalities• Demonstrates unsatisfactory level of understanding of course material
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not college-level discourse; incoherent, rambling, etc.• Fails to respond to several questions or response are largely wrong• Contains very few details• Represents a serious deficiency in understanding of course material• or . . . STUDENT CAUGHT CHEATING ON EXAM:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ copying from another student○ exchanging information with another student○ using electronic devices○ using notes, books, etc. that have not been approved for that exam

Dates	Religion Covered	Assignments Due
Jan. 12-21	Hinduism	Read: <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i>
Jan. 26- Feb. 4	Buddhism	Read: <i>The Dhammapada</i>
Feb. 9-18	Taoism	Read: <i>The Tao Te Ching</i> Essay #1 Due February 16th
Feb. 23- Mar. 2	Confucianism	Read: <i>The Analects</i>
March 4	Midterm Exam	
March 9-11, 23-25	Judaism	Essay #2 Due March 11 Read: Genesis 1-4; 12-18; 21-22; 27-33; Exodus 1-20:21; Leviticus 16; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 32:48-52; 34; Joshua 23 Deuteronomy 18:14-22; I Samuel 1-3; 8-9; 16-17; II Samuel 11-12; I King 17-21; II Kings 2; Isaiah 6:1-13; 53; Daniel (all); Hosea (all); Jonah (all) Job 1-3; 42; Psalms 1; 8; 14; 22; 23; 42; 51; 73; 119:1-8; 132
March 30-April 8	Christianity	Read: <i>Matthew, John, I Corinthians, Galatians, James, Revelation</i>
April 13-22	Islam	Read: Qur'an 96; 112; 59; 53; 11; 93; 52; 63; 17.1-3; 9; 33; 35; 42.8-10; 7.177-180; 72.1-15; 2; 15; 17.23-28. 4.1-10, 19-22, 34-39; 2:220-223, 227-333. 6:16, 19-20; 48:11-21; 2:190-194, 216-218
April 27- May 11	Atheism and Fundamentalism(s)	Read: <i>Atheism: A Very Short Introduction</i> Essay #3 Due May 11th
	Final Exam	

