

Introduction to World Religions

PHIL 1304.001
Spring 2019
MWF 8:00-8:50, CA 257

Instructor

Wes Crawford, Ph.D.

Contact Information

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Course Description

A comparative and philosophical introduction to the religions of the world including but not limited to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism

Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate their comprehension of the basic tenants of major world religions through examinations.
 - Students will identify and analyze key persons and events in world religions through their development and composition of a research paper.
 - Students will assess the value of historical knowledge for world religions through a comprehensive final examination essay.
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Required Text

- Esposito, John L., Darrell J. Fasching, and Todd T. Lewis. *World Religions Today*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford Press, 2015.

Course Policies

- Certainly, consistent attendance and participation in all classes will benefit the student, the instructor, and all other members of the class. Each unexcused absence will result in a 5-point deduction in the student's attendance grade, which comprises 10% of the overall course grade. Examples of excused absences are: court date, emergency room visit, death in the family, etc. Examples of unexcused absences are: traffic, alarm malfunctions, work schedules, responsibilities for other classes, etc.
 - **Late work will not be accepted.** If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, he or she should email the assignment to the professor by the assignment's due date. If a student misses class **for an excused reason** on the day of an exam, the responsibility lies with the student to schedule a make-up exam date within one week of the missed assignment.
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Assessment

1. Students will take two exams throughout the course of the semester, a mid-term and a final. For each exam, students will be asked to recall key events, persons, and ideas from their readings and class lectures. Both exams will consist of multiple choice, true false, and essay questions and will be given on the following dates:

March 18
May 1

Mid Term Examination
Final Examination

2. Students will take periodic quizzes over their reading assignments. These pop quizzes are designed to help students keep pace with the reading schedule and help them prepare to engage in class discussion.
3. Toward the beginning of the semester, students will choose an important person or event from any world religion, which will serve as the basis for a 1250-1750 word research paper. That paper should follow the Chicago Manual of Style in its format. In addition to providing historical information of the person or event, this paper should also answer the question: How did this person or event shape the course of that particular religion? All research papers should reflect in-depth research on their subject, drawing from both primary and secondary sources. Students should turn in these projects no later than **Friday, April 12. The following rubric will be used in grading research papers:**

90-100%

- Demonstrates excellent understanding of the material

- Demonstrates an excellent awareness and treatment of various interpretations
- Contains a clear and succinct thesis statement that serves as basis for entire paper
- Plentiful and relevant citations and sources
- Grammar and style are polished
- Logical argumentation is employed in defense of the student's point of view

80-89%

- Demonstrates a good understanding of the material
- Demonstrates a good awareness and treatment of various interpretations
- Contains a clear thesis statement that guides the paper in most places
- Good citations and sources
- Grammar and style are good
- Logical argumentation is employed in defense of the student's point of view

70-79%

- Demonstrates an adequate understanding of the material
- Demonstrates an adequate awareness and treatment of various interpretations
- Contains a thesis statement that does not provide clear direction for the paper
- Adequate citations and sources
- Grammar and style are adequate
- Logical argumentation is employed in defense of the student's point of view

1-69%

- Understanding may not be demonstrated
- Awareness of other interpretations may not be demonstrated
- Citations and sources may be missing
- Grammar and style may obstruct reading
- Paper may lack logical coherence
- Possibly over or under required word count

0%

- Plagiarism or no submission

Grading Scale/Policy

- Class participation and assignments will be weighted as follows:

Attendance	10%
Reading Quizzes	10%
Mid-Term Exam	30%

Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	30%

- The following grading scale will be followed for the course:

A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 65-69
F: 64 & Below

Important Information

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The **Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR)** office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Social Security Statement: It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number.

Note regarding Student Absence due to Religious Observance: Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of such absences.

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University: All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to

students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Tentative Schedule and/or Due Dates

January 14-18 No Class

January 21-25 Religion in Our World

- Read *World Religions Today*, 3-26

January 28-February 1 Historical Overview of Religion in Our World

- Read *World Religions Today*, 26-37

February 4-8 Indigenous Religions

- Read *World Religions Today*, 39-75

February 11-15 Judaism

- Read *World Religions Today*, 77-100

February 18-22 Judaism

- Read *World Religions Today*, 100-145

February 25-March 1 Christianity

- Read *World Religions Today*, 147-175

March 4-8 Christianity

- Read *World Religions Today*, 175-217

March 11-15 SPRING BREAK

March 18 **Mid-Term Examination**

March 18-22 Islam

- Read *World Religions Today*, 219-269

March 25-29 Islam

- Read *World Religions Today*, 269-305

April 1-5 Hinduism

- Read *World Religions Today*, 307-353

April 8-12 Hinduism

- Read *World Religions Today*, 353-397
- **Research Papers Due**

April 15-19 Buddhism

- Read *World Religions Today*, 399-454

April 22-26 Buddhism & East Asian Religions

- Read *World Religions Today*, 454-575

April 29 Final Exam Review

May 1 **FINAL EXAMINATION**