

Introduction to World Religions (Online)

PHIL 1304

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Hours
Dr. Justin Morton	jmorton@uttyler.edu	By Appointment Office: CAS 113 Phone number (office): 903-556-7371

General Information

Description of Course Content

Perhaps you're very religious. Perhaps you stay as far away from religion as you can. Or perhaps you are religious enough to appease your parents a few days a year. Regardless, religion has been one of the deepest parts of most humans' lives for most of the history of humanity. It gives them a picture of the history and future of the world, the meaning of life, and the nature of the deities, among other things. In this course we'll look into these and other aspects of some of the major religions of the world.

Course Objectives

- Understand the major religions that we cover.
- Develop the abilities to reason about and debate these issues.

Course Materials

Required Materials

- *Experiencing the World's Religions*, 8th edition, by Michael Molloy

All other materials will be made available throughout the term on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Exam
Week 1	Hinduism	Ch. 3	Exam 1 (Hinduism)
	Buddhism	Ch. 4	
Week 2	Daoism and Confucianism	Ch. 6	Exam 2 (Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism)
Week 3	Judaism	Ch. 8	
Week 4	Christianity	Ch. 9	Exam 3 (Judaism and Christianity)
Week 5	Islam	Ch. 10	Exam 4 (Islam)

Evaluation

Quizzes | 5%

Reading Responses | 15%

Four Exams | 20% each

Quizzes. These are aimed to both gauge whether you did the reading, and to prepare you for the exam. They are short (1 or 2 questions), and they are multiple choice. They are timed and administered on Canvas, with Respondus fully enabled.

Reading Responses. These will be short, timed writing activities where you are given a short excerpt from a religious text and a prompt to respond to. They are timed and administered on Canvas, with Respondus fully enabled.

Exams. Exams are multiple choice and true/false. They are timed and administered on Canvas, with Respondus fully enabled.

Course Policies

AI Use

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

Communication Policy

I communicate outside of class primarily over email. I will reply to emails within 48 hours (not counting weekends/holidays). Sometimes an email slips through the cracks—I get a lot of email. If you haven't gotten a reply in this timeframe, you will not offend me by politely sending another reminder email.

Late Work

Late work of any kind will be assessed a penalty of 5% of the original total value of the assignment, per day late. Days are assessed at full value only—no proration. So, if you are 1 minute late, you get a 5% penalty. If you are 24 hours and 1 minute late, you get a 10% penalty—and so on.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. In cases where it occurs, penalties may range from failure of the assignment to failure of the course. You will also be turned in to UT-Tyler's Office of Student Conduct and Intervention, and the university will assess further penalties. You are responsible for knowing what counts as plagiarism, and penalties will be assessed regardless of intent.