



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Religious Studies

RLST 110-03 20150

Religions of the World

Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Mugdha Yeolekar (pronounced as Yeo-laker)

Office: UH 315

Class Location: LH 403A

Class Time: TuTh 11:30-12:45

E-mail: myeolekar@fullerton.edu

Phone: 657.278.4419

Office hours: Tuesday 10:00 to 11:00am and Thursday 10:00 to 11:00am

[The best way to communicate is through email. I generally respond within a few hours. I may not get the telephone message until next day, but if you want to leave a voice message, please do so. I will respond as quickly as possible.]

WEBSITE: TITANium

Online course information is available in TITANium. Go to <http://www.fullerton.edu/> and click on my portal. Students are expected to read the latest news each week during the duration of the course and should be familiar with the following resources:

Contact the Help Desk (657) 278-7777 for Technical Difficulties

****It is recommended you use a current web browser to ensure a smooth TITANium experience.****

For information on TITANium, go to

http://www.fullerton.edu/ittraining/other/moodle/tutorials/Titanium_Student_Tutorial/Titanium_Student_Tutorial.htm

NOTE: Further information is available on the banner page of the class TITANium Website.

WEB REQUIREMENTS

Since some activities in this class will be conducted online, students must need to:

1. have frequent and dependable internet access with a high speed modem;
2. utilize the latest version of a reliable web browser such as Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari;
3. utilize a computer that has anti-virus software installed;

4. utilize Microsoft® Office 2007 (Word and PowerPoint) or later, Adobe Reader 10, QuickTime, and Windows Media
5. type and electronically submit all assignments through TITANium; and be WEB savvy (know how to search, troubleshoot, and bookmark)

NETIQUETTE:

Since we communicate mainly through the Web, please follow the guidelines listed at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**RLST 100-07 Religions of the World**

Introduction to at least five religious world views from an historical and comparative perspective, with descriptive analyses of their belief systems, moral codes and symbolic rituals: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. **Units:** (3)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the academic study of religion and of world religions. In particular, it will introduce students to the religious traditions of indigenous communities around the world, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course asks students to examine and compare the historical evolution, fundamental doctrines and beliefs, ritual practices, and cultural expressions of the above religious traditions. This course will provide an opportunity to each student for fieldwork within the greater Los Angeles area. We will combine several types of pedagogical strategies and resources in our course including textbooks, articles, films and ethnographic research.

This course fulfills GE C.2 Introduction to the Humanities. (If you wish to pursue a minor in Religious Studies, you can "double count" this course for GE and the minor—up to nine units of GE courses from one department may be used to meet minor requirements. If you are a major in Religious Studies, this class fulfills your lower division "introduction to the study of religion," but cannot count for GE.) This course also fulfills the GE Pathway "Global Studies."

TEXTS:

Oxtoby, Willard G., & Segal, Alan F. (Eds.). (2012). *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. New York: Oxford University Press.

In addition to the above textbook, I will assign a number of short supplementary readings and audio-visual assignments as the course proceeds.

These books are available at the

Little Professor Book Store 725 North Placentia Avenue,
Fullerton (Tel.: 714-996-3133).

REQUIREMENTS:

1. SIX Quizzes (Online) 30%

- a. Quiz 1: 02/05-02/07
- b. Quiz 2: 02/19-02/21
- c. Quiz 3: 03/12-03/14
- d. Quiz 4: 04/19-04/21
- e. Quiz 5: 04/23-04/25
- f. Quiz 6: 05/02-05/04

The quizzes will be taken on TITANium.

2. Midterm (in-class) 20% (03/19/2019)

This in-class exam will consist of short essay questions.

3. In-class presentations 20% (Various)

Each student will visit one religious place as assigned by the instructor during the semester. Students will create a ritual map of the place based on instructions provided by the instructor. Each student will make a 8-10 minute in-class presentation based on field visits. In their presentations, students need to make at least two concepts from assigned reading. They need to give citation and page number for the concepts being used. The purpose of this assignment is to teach students to integrate textual and experiential knowledge.

4. Discussion Board Postings 20%

Each student will be required to post a paragraph in response to the assigned readings for the day. The paragraphs should be posted before the class, except for a couple of times mentioned in the syllabus. The discussion board postings will then be used to facilitate in-class discussions.

5. Attendance and Participation 10%

Attendance grade is 5% and participation grade is 5%. Tentative grades for each category will be updated once after the midterm and then at the end of the semester.

Attend classes, be actively engaged in conversations, use no electronica in class.

SHOULD TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ARISE

If you are not able to access the TITANium Website or cannot upload an assignment, you may send the assignment to my email at jsantucci@fullerton.edu. When you send the file, be sure that it is accompanied with the following information: **your full name, the class that you are enrolled in, and the Assignment number.** Include a short explanation of the problem you encountered when you attempted to upload the file. The Subject of the email must include "Submission of Assignment" **Once the problem is solved, you must upload the file onto the Website. This is for purposes of grading.**

GRADING POLICY:

According to UPS 300.020, letter grades and their corresponding values are listed as follows:

A+		4.0	(98-100%)
A	Outstanding	4.0	(93-97%)

A-		3.7	(90-92%) B+
		3.3	(88-89%) B
		Good	3.0 (83-87%)
B-		2.7	(80-82%)
C+		2.3	(78-79%)
C	Acceptable	2.0	(73-77%)
C-		1.7	(70-72%)
D+		1.3	(68-69%) D
Poor	1.0	(63-67%)	
D-		0.7	(60-62%)
F	Failing	0.0	(Below 60%)

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

"Students who violate university standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including failure in the course and suspension from the university. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the university, policies on academic integrity are strictly enforced. I expect that you will familiarize yourself with the academic integrity guidelines found in the current student handbook."

For further information, go to “Academic Integrity Resources” at

<http://www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/Judicial/Academic%20Integrity%20Resources.asp>

MISSION AND GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

A. Mission

To describe and interpret the developments, worldviews, and practices of religious traditions in a non-sectarian, academic manner for the benefit of students, faculty from other fields, and the greater Orange County community.

B. Goals

1. To offer classes in the world’s religions within the General Education framework and for majors and minors;
2. To teach in a scholarly and non-sectarian manner;
3. To conduct scholarly research that contributes to an understanding of the varieties of religious thought and experience; 4. To investigate in a scholarly manner the impact of the varieties of religious thought and experience on contemporary society.

G.E. LEARNING GOALS:

As a course designed to meet the learning goals of General Education, CPRL 270T seeks to achieve the learning goals for the introduction to the Humanities C2. Students taking courses in subarea C2 shall

- a. Cultivate their intellectual reasoning skills, expand their capacity for creative imagination, develop their reasonable moral sensibilities, and increase their capacity for sensitive engagement through studying great works of human imagination and reason (which are to be primarily—although not exclusively— written texts and literature).

- b. Understand how the humanities have contributed to the development of culture, including the comparative study of the humanities in diverse cultures.
- c. Understand how the humanities have sought to provide answers to complex problems facing humanity, including the relationship of the self to culture and the natural world, the nature of moral and legal obligations, and the meaning and purpose of human existence.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS AND OUTCOMES:

Learning Goals:

General Education Learning Goals applied to this Course:

Below (in standard are the Learning Goals for GE C.2 Introduction to the Humanities (UPS 411.201). After each goal is a formulation (in italics) of how the goal is addressed in this course.

- Cultivate their intellectual reasoning skills, expand their capacity for creative imagination, develop their reasonable moral sensibilities, and increase their capacity for sensitive engagement through studying great works of human imagination and reason (which are to be primarily, although not exclusively, written texts and literature).
- To investigate worldviews/belief systems and their expression in scripture, ritual, art forms and ethical standards—ancient and powerful ways of being human; To clarify the distinctions between the comparative study of religion and the study of other humanities disciplines by focusing on religious traditions in and of themselves, rather than as aspects of history, philosophy, literature or one of the social sciences.
- To study the major texts, key figures, significant traditions and important themes in the main religions of our world that have so profoundly influenced every society that they have encountered o To analyze key religious texts from the Western religious traditions, including selections from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, and the Qur'an. Non-Western texts include passages from the Vedic Upanishads, the Bhagavad-Gita, as well as the Pali and Mahayana canons of Buddhism.
- Understand how the humanities have contributed to the development of culture, including the comparative study of the humanities in diverse cultures.
- To understand the historical and cultural aspects of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as they are practiced throughout the world.
- To acknowledge the unique challenges faced by Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims in adapting their religions to the American situation.
- To possess a familiarity with certain new religious movements and the perspective of secular humanism.

- To identify how religion is a central component of culture. In many societies, in fact, religion and culture are nearly inseparable, so that the humanistic and academic study of a religious tradition is a window into the evolution of a culture.
- To gain a general awareness of how religious presuppositions—for good and bad—influence the actions and ideas of individuals and the general society.
- Understand how the humanities have sought to provide answers to complex problems facing humanity, including the relationship of the self to culture and the natural world, the nature of moral and legal obligations, and the meaning and purpose of human existence. To study a principal humanistic component in the lives of at least four-fifths of the earth's inhabitants, namely, their religious traditions.
- The "Humanities " are so named because they deal with the study of the essential components of being human: the quest for meaning and fulfillment gained through the encounter with art and literature, and the study of history, religion, and philosophy To study religion academically is to encounter an important aspect of what it means to be human.
- To understand and appreciate why religious faith provides meaning and a system of values to billions of people worldwide.
- To appreciate the values, experiences, and meanings held by others and in one's own life.
- To understand the benefits and challenges of a pluralistic approach to the religious views of others.

Department of Comparative Religion Learning Goals & Outcomes applied to this Course:

- Learning Goal: Students possess the ability to perform research and interpret materials related to the study of religion.
Outcome 1: Students can analyze written materials related to the study of religion.
Outcome 2: Students have acquired information literacy in the study of religion.
- Learning Goal: Students can effectively communicate in written and spoken mediums.
Outcome 3: Students are able to write well-organized critical and analytical research papers related to the study of religion.
- Learning Goal: Students can demonstrate an understanding of the beliefs, rituals, texts, and figures related to a variety of religious traditions.
Outcome 5: Students can describe the basic teachings and practices of major religious traditions and can compare and contrast the principal similarities and differences between them.
Outcome 6: Students are able to the history and development of specific religions and their contemporary relevance.
Outcome 8: Students can interpret key thinkers and figures within religious traditions.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability or special need for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, please inform me and contact the Disability Support Services Office, located in University Hall 101, as early as possible in the term. For more information, the Disability

Support Services Office can be reached by calling (657) 278-3117 or visit their website at www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices/. Confidentiality will be protected.

E-MAIL:

All students are required to have e-mail. You should use the @csu.fullerton.edu address or your own provider. When you create an account on TITANium, you will have to provide your e-mail address so be sure to keep it up to date.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

<http://prepare.fullerton.edu>

EMERGENCY CALLS DIAL 9-1-1

All campus phones and cell phones on campus reach the
University Police Department
Non-emergency Line: 657-278-2515

Campus Operation and Emergency Closure Line:
(657) 278-4444

Late Assignments

One late assignment is allowed in during the semester and will be reduced 10% each day after the assignment due date (up to 50%) unless approval for late work is given in advance. Late assignments and forms will be accepted up to one week after the original due date, no more. Discussion posts will not be accepted late.

Policy on Retention of Student Work

Work is submitted through the Titanium course site and shall be retained on the course website for a reasonable time after the semester is completed.

Software for Students

Did you know you can get FREE and low-cost software for being an active CSUF students? Software downloads and request forms can be found on the [CSUF Student Software website](#).

University Learning Center

The goal of the University Learning Center is to provide all CSUF students with academic support in an inviting and contemporary environment. The staff of the University Learning Center will

assist students with their academic assignments, general study skills, and computer user needs. The ULC staff work with all students from diverse backgrounds in most undergraduate general education courses including those in science and math; humanities and social sciences; as well as other subjects. They offer one-to-one peer tutoring, online writing review, and many more services. More information can be found on the [University Learning Center website](#).

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers 30-minute, one-on-one peer tutoring sessions and workshops, aimed at providing assistance for all written assignments and student writing concerns. Writing Center services are available to students from all disciplines. Registration and appointment schedules are available at the [Writing Center Appointment Scheduling System](#). Walk-in appointments are also available on a first come, first served basis, to students who have registered online. More information can be found at the [Writing Center webpage](#). The Writing Center is located on the first floor of the [Pollak Library](#) their phone number is (657) 278-3650.

Electronic Device Policy: No electronic devices are allowed accept during student presentations. This includes all types of phones, tablets, and laptops. Using devices in class will affect your attendance and participation grade.

Readings: Assigned, mandatory readings are to be completed prior to the day they are listed for. Don't read them in class!

Schedule

Unless otherwise specified, the reading assignments listed below are from the textbook.

Class	Topics	Reading Assignment	Assignment
W 1 01/22	Introduction to the course: What is religion? What to expect from this course? Overview of Titanium website		
01/24	Academic study of religion	Pgs: 3-14	

	Field Visit Groups and assignments		
W 2 01/29	Documentary and discussion: Finding God in the city of Angels	Pgs: 14-25	
01/31	Introduction to Indigenous Religions	Pgs: 29-50	DBP 1: Introduce yourself, your expectations from this class, your travels
W 3 02/05	Introduction to Indigenous Religions	Pgs: 29-50	Quiz ONE: 10 Multiple-choice questions about Study of religions and indigenous religions. Available online from 8am on 02/05 to to 11:59 pm on 02/07
02/07	Introduction to Indian religions Vedic religion	Pgs: 273-284	DBP 2: Who were the main gods of Vedic religion?
W 4 02/12	Classical Hinduism	Pgs: 284-292 and 298-303	DBP 3: Discuss the three ways of liberation that were developed in the literature of classical Hindu period.
02/14	Schools of Philosophy, Yoga, Tantra and Ayurveda Hinduism in Southeast Asia Community 1: Hinduism field report and in-class presentation	Pgs: 293-297	
W 5 02/19	Reform and Revival Contemporary Issues	Pgs: 303-327	Quiz Two: 10 Multiple-choice questions Available online from 8am on 02/19 to 11:59 pm on 02/21

	Documentary and discussion: Hinduism: 330 Million Gods		
02/21	Jainism	Pgs: 338-352	DBP 4: What does the word ahimsa mean? In what ways have you practiced Ahimsa in your life so far?
W 6 02/26	Jainism wrap up	Pgs: 353-367	
02/28	Indian Buddhism	Pgs: 373-392	DBP 5: What does the word Buddha mean? Does Buddhism have gods?
W 7 03/5	Theravāda Buddhism	Pgs: 392-394, 411-415	DBP 6: Where is Therevada Buddhism practised? What is Tripitaka?
03/7	Mahāyāna Buddhism Vajrayāna Buddhism Documentary and discussion: Buddhism: The Land of the Disappearing Buddha	Pgs: 394-410 and Pgs: 415-417	DBP 7: What is the concept of “merit transfer” in Mahayana? What did you know about Buddhism prior to taking this class? **Study Guide for midterm available in Titanium at noon
W 8 03/12	Cultural Expressions Interaction and Adaptation Buddhism and Modern World Community 2: Buddhism in-class presentation	Pgs: 417-431	Quiz THREE: 10 Multiple-choice questions about Jainism and Buddhism Available online from 8am on 03/12 to 11:59 pm on 03/14
03/14	Review for midterm in class		
W 9	Midterm Exam		

03/19			
03/21	Sikhism	Pgs: 437-454	DBP 8: What did you know about Sikhism prior to taking this class? What does the word Sikh mean?
W 10 03/26	Sikhism Community 3: Sikhism in-class presentation	Pgs: 454-469	DBP 9: What is the institution of "langar" in Sikhism?
03/28	Early Judaism	Pgs: 81-108	DBP 10: What did you know about Judaism prior to taking this class? What are you most interested in learning about Judaism?
W 11 04/01 - 04/07	Spring Recess No classes		
W12 04/09	Judaism: The Medieval Period Documentary and discussion: " There is no God but God [videorecording] ; The Romanian solution ; The chosen people / BBC ; produced by Peter Montagnon	Pgs: 108-114 DBP at the end of the class	DBP 11: At the end of the class, write two insights about Judaism that you got from this documentary Quiz FOUR: 10 Multiple choice questions on Judaism readings available online from 8:00am on 04/19 to 11:59pm on 04/21
04/11	Practice Zionism Judaism wrap up Community 4: Judaism in-class presentation	Pgs: 115-133	DBP 12: What is Zionism? How and where did it start?

W 13 04/16	Christianity: Life of Christ and Gospels	Pgs: 141-167	DBP 13: What are synoptic gospels? Why are they called synoptic?
04/18	Christianity: Protestant Reformation	Pgs: 167-178	DBP 14: Discuss two key features of protestant reformation.
W 14 04/23	Interaction and Adaptation Community 5: Christianity in-class presentation	Pgs: 188-202	DBP 15: In what ways did Christianity become a world religion? Quiz FIVE: 10 Multiple choice questions on Christianity readings, available online from 8:00am on 04/23 to 11:59pm on 04/25
04/25	Early Islam	Pgs: 209-216	DBP 16: What do you know about Islam? What does the word "Islam" mean?
W 15 04/30	Documentary and discussion: "The Making of Islam" PBS Documentary	DBP AT THE END OF THE CLASS	DBP 17: At the end of the class, write two insights about Islam that you got from the documentary.
05/02	The Spread of Islam Practice	Pgs: 235-250	DBP 18: What were different ways in which Islam spread across Asia? Quiz SIX: 10 Multiple choice questions on Islam readings, available online from 8:00am on 05/02 to 11:59pm on 05/04
W 16 05/07	Interaction And Adaptation Community 6: Islam field in-class presentation	Pgs: 250-268	DBP 19: Discuss two distinctive features of Islamic art.
05/09	Reflections and final thoughts		DBP 20

			In what ways will you use the insights learned in this class in your life?
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