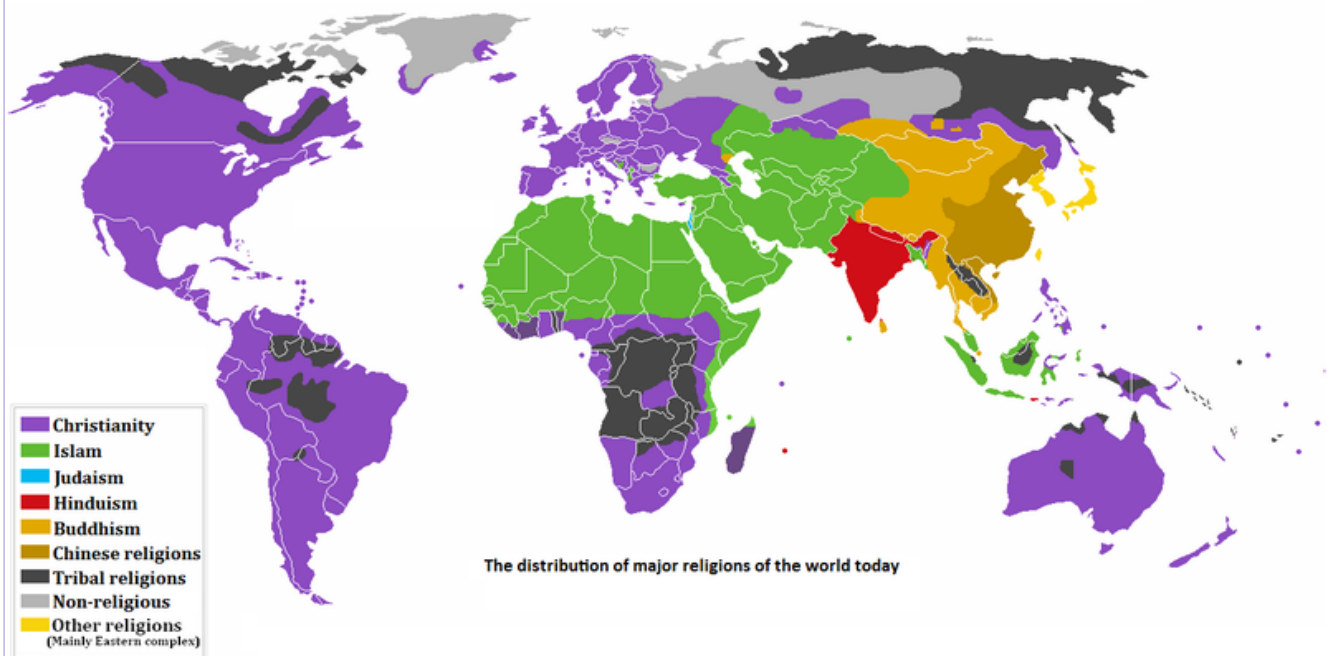


Religions of the World

RELS 1020-09 ❖ T/Th 12:30-1:45 PM ❖ Lang 211



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Office Location: Bartlett Hall 1095

Phone: (319) 273-6221

Office Hours: T/Th 9:00AM-12:00 PM

This course is an introduction to religions of the world. It is designed to acquaint students with the study of religion and familiarize students with the histories of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism. Particular attention will be given to the role of colonialism in shaping the study of religion and the role of religion in global history and politics. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the eight traditions listed above and have a better understanding of how these traditions are represented in maps like the one above. Assignments in this course are designed to help students gain knowledge about religions of the world and apply that knowledge to their everyday lives and potential careers.

Requirements

What do I have to do for this course?

PAGES 2-3

Grade Policies

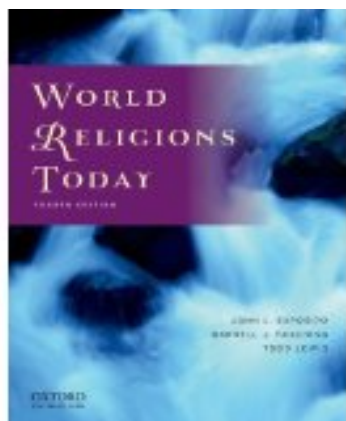
How can I expect to be graded this course?

PAGES 4-5

Schedule

What to read/write & when to read/write it

PAGE 6



Required Textbook: John L. Esposito, *World Religions Today*, 4th Ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Other required readings are available via Blackboard and/or email.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation	300
Quizzes	300
RiW Project	400
Total	1,000 points

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class in the form of a sign-in sheet. Attendance will factor into each student's participation grade. As a result, students may not sign each other in.

All students are expected to come to class. From time to time, however, we cannot meet what is expected of us. If a student is absent, they are expected to report their absence through the following link, <http://goo.gl/9E4ful>, also provided on Blackboard and Google Drive. Students with reasonable absences will not be penalized for missing class.

Reasonable Absences: "Reasonable" absences include a student falling ill or someone under the student's care being ill; bereavement; military or civic duties; official participation in university event; or religious observance. If special accommodations need to be made on assignments, students should bring this to their professor's attention immediately.

If students miss class or are late to class, they are responsible for catching up on the discussions, readings, and any pertinent announcements they may have missed. Students must receive permission from the instructor prior to their absence to have alternative due dates for any assignment.

Assigned Reading: Students are expected to do all assigned reading. This includes the textbook *and* any documents posted on Blackboard or emailed to the class. Readings for each day should be read *before* coming to class. If it appears that students are not reading the assigned material, pop quizzes may become a regular part of class meetings and the overall participation grade.

Assistance with your academics: For help beyond your Instructor on learning strategies, the Academic Learning Center provides free assistance with writing, math, science, college reading, and learning strategies. UNI's Academic Learning Center is located in 008 ITTC.

Visit the website at <http://www.uni.edu/unialc/> or call [319-273-2361](tel:319-273-2361) for more information and to set up an appointment.

Participation: Participation will be graded according to a rubric posted on blackboard. A student's participation grade is evaluated according to a combination of factors that indicate engagement with the course. This can include: being prepared for class to begin; substantive contributions to in-class discussion; online discussion on Blackboard or our Google Group; participating in campus or community events relevant to the course; and attending office hours. Students will remain informed of their performance through participation check-ins that occur, at minimum, at midterm and the end of the semester. Students may inquire about their participation performance at any time.

Quizzes: Students will be assessed through their best 10 of 11 quizzes. These quizzes will occur at weekly intervals. Quizzes will pertain to the reading material and lectures for a given week. Each quiz will be administered through Blackboard and must be completed by Friday at 5:00PM. Since students have a full week or more to complete the quiz, make-ups will only be administered in special circumstances that involve an unexpected and/or prolonged absence.

Note on Technology: Blackboard quizzes should *only* be taken on a desktop or laptop with a reliable internet connection. Students *should not* try to take their quizzes on an iPad, iPhone, tablet, or other smart device. It will not work properly and you will not be able to make-up the quiz.

From time to time technology can let us down. Wireless connections can be interrupted or computers can crash. These are not emergency situations that warrant special treatment, but issues that should be expected to arise from using technology. So, back-up your work, plan ahead, and don't be afraid to complete an assignment well in advance of the deadline. A last-minute bug or outage just before a quiz deadline are not grounds for making-up the assignment for full credit.

Religion in the World Reflection: This project will evaluate students' overall comprehension by applying course concepts to a contemporary issue of the student's choice. This project will unfold in 5 parts: 1. identifying a subject; 2. tracking that subject in the media; 3. writing a summary of the subject to share with peers; 4. editing the work of two peers; and, 5. completing a final, polished essay. More information on this project and how it will be graded can be found on Blackboard and Google Drive.

Class Curated News Magazine: Based on the projects that each student outlines we will have an ongoing collaborative project as a class. As each student locates and tracks a media source, we will curate an electronic magazine of our findings. These magazines will be used to discuss course concepts as a class and to share with public.

GRADING POLICY

All grades in the course are meant to evaluate student comprehension and development. A student's final grade is based on the number of points earned over the course of the semester. Grades will be rounded to the nearest integer (.5 and above will be rounded up; .49 and below will be rounded down). Students can keep track of their grade by following a running tally of points earned divided by total possible points.

Your instructor is your mentor and guide as you navigate core concepts and development in this course. If you do not understand why you received the grade you did, *do not panic*. Email your professor and schedule an appointment to discuss why you earned this grade.

Late papers will be accepted with a 10-point reduction for each hour increment it is late. These deductions will occur in 10-point increments only and will not be prorated. Once 50% of the total points would be deducted, late papers will not be accepted.

Extra credit, if offered, will be offered to the entire class and will not be available on an individual basis.

Grading Rubric

	B+: 875-894	C+: 785-794	D+: 675-694	F: 594-0
A: 925-1,000	B: 825-874	C: 725-784	D: 625-674	
A-: 895-924	B-: 795-824	C-: 695-724	D-: 595-624	

ACADEMIC ETHICS POLICY

Academic integrity will be upheld in this course. UNI's Student Academic Ethics Policy can be found at <http://www.uni.edu/policies/301>.

Students who commit one of the outlined violations will be dealt with on an individual basis in accordance with the Ethics Sanctions at the link above, following this guideline:

Level 1: 0 on the assignment (opportunity to make-up for half-credit)
 Level 2: 0 on the assignment (no make-up)
 Level 3: Failure of course
 Level 4: Failure of course & written reprimand

ADA POLICY

Please address any special needs or special accommodations with your instructor at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs.

Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from Student Disability Services (SDS) (phone 319-273-2677, for deaf or hard of hearing, use Relay 711).

SDS is located on the top floor of the Student Health Center, Room 103.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Blackboard: All information about this course is available on Blackboard. This should be the first place students visit if they have a question about assignments, readings, course expectations or office hours. Students are expected to check the course schedule and Blackboard announcements regularly. It is the student's responsibility to remain abreast of announced changes to the schedule, including unexpected cancellations, and other unforeseen changes to the course.

Email: Students are expected to check their UNI email address regularly. Announcements about the class will be sent to this email address. If students prefer to use another email address, it is their responsibility to edit their email settings accordingly. Students will be held responsible for paying attention to electronic announcements.

All email communication between students and their professor should be professional. This means all correspondence should begin with an appropriate greeting, include a message that clearly indicates the student's question or concern (written in a polite and courteous tone), and end with a signature that includes the student's full name and course section number. Students should expect a response within 36 hours, but *no sooner* than 24 hours.

Any correspondence that does not follow the form outlined above, especially those that are rude, discourteous, or inappropriate, will first receive a warning and, if continued, will not receive a response. Duplicate emails sent in haste, sent the night before an assignment is due, or discourteous in tone should expect a warning about tone and, if continued, will not receive a response. Any email that contains an attachment but no message will not be opened.

Mobile Technology: Students may use their mobile technology to take electronic notes. Students *must* receive permission from their instructor before taking photos in the classroom or recording any portion of class. They must also ask permission before sharing the instructor's course materials outside of class.

If use of electronic devices is distracting to you or another student, your instructor reserves the right to move students to a different seat, lower the student's participation grade, prohibit the use of electronic devices, or, if necessary, ask the student/students to leave the classroom.

ON THE ACADEMIC STUDY OF RELIGION:

This class is intended to teach students content related to the academic study of religion. It is concerned with learning *about* religion, not practicing religious beliefs or customs. The academic study of religion does not seek to persuade people to join or leave religious groups. Students may not use class as a forum to persuade their peers to leave or join their religious group. Such circumstances may be used as a learning opportunity so that the class may gain a greater understanding of the academic study of religion and learn how to reframe their contributions in ways that align with the precedents for public classrooms.

Week 1: Introductions

T 8.26: Introduction to the Course
 Th 8.28: Mapping World Religions

Week 2: Discovering Religion

T 9.2: I Spy "Religion"
 Read: "'Orange Is the New Black" and the Difficulty of Portraying Prison Religion" (Bb), <http://goo.gl/Fkatk1>
 Th 9.4: NO CLASS
Due Friday, 5PM: Reflection Topic

Week 3: Ancient Origins

T 9.9: ...and Religion
 Read: "Before Religion" (Bb)
 Th 9.11: ...in South Asia
 Read: Esposito 304-323
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 1

Week 4: Ancient Origins

T 9.16: in South Asia
 Read: Esposito pp. 398-407
 Th 9.18: in South Asia
 Read: Esposito pp. 408-412; 328-332
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 2

Week 5: Ancient Origins

T 9.23: in Southwest Asia
 Read: Esposito pp. 83-101
 Th 9.25: in Southwest Asia
 Read: Esposito pp. 157-174
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 3

Week 6: Ancient Origins & Distinctions

T 9.30: in Southwest Asia
 Read: Esposito pp. 224-238
 Th 10.2: Christians, Jews, and Muslims
 Read: Esposito pp. 180-181, 106-109
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 4

Week 7: Religion and Empire

T 10.7: Christian Empire
 Read: Esposito pp. 182-189,
 Th 10.9: No Class; *Due: Source Check-in #1*
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 5

Week 8: Religion in Colonialism

T 10.14 "They Have No Religion"
 Read: Chidester, "Colonialism" (Bb)

Th 10.16 Christians meet "Hindus"
 Read: Esposito pp. 332-335
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 6

Week 9: Religion in Colonialism

T 10.21 Buddhists and Colonialism
 Read: Esposito pp. 441-448
 Th 10.23 "Confucians" and Colonialism
 Read: Esposito pp. 518-529
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 7

Week 10: Religion in Colonialism

T 10.28 Muslims and Colonialism
 Read: Esposito pp. 240-245; 253-259
 Th 10.30 Colonialism and Islam
 Read: Esposito pp. 221-224; 259-265
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 8

Week 11: Religion, Secularity & Post-Colonialism

T 11.4 Hindu Nationalism
 Read: pp. 335-343; *Due: Source Check-in #2*
 Th: 11.6 Hindu, Hinduism, Hinduisms
 Read: Selections on Wendy Doniger (Bb)
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 9

Week 12: Religion, Secularity & Post-Colonialism

T 11.11: Zionism
 Read: Esposito pp. 115-128
 Th 11.13: Zion, Zionism, Zionisms
 Read: Esposito pp. 128-142, 79-83
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 10

Week 13: Religion, Secularity & Post-Colonialism

T 11.18: Islam, Islams, and Islamic States
 Read: Esposito pp. 265-273; 278-285
 Th 11.20 Peer Editing
Due in Thursday class: Summary
Due Friday, 5 PM: Quiz 11

Week 14: Religion and Secular Nations

No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: "Real" and Really Real "Religions"

T 12.2: SBNR & Nones
 Th 12.4 "We are all religious now"

Week 16: Considering World Religions

12.9 Religion in the World Reflection
 12.11 Religion in the World Reflection
Due by beginning of class: Final Essay