Fall 2011 Exploring World Religions

Shek 2022 Mendocino Off.Hrs: W 5:00-6:00 p.m. Tel: 278-5331 Email: rshek@csus.edu

Area: C3

Department: Humanities and Religious Studies Course Number: 140

Course Title: Exploring World Religions

Course Description:
A comparative inquiry into the nature of global religions. Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam will be studied. Material and social aspects of these religions will be considered along with primary beliefs and practices. The common yearning to experience the divine and the numinous will be emphasized. 3 units.

Prerequisites:
• Passing score on the WPJ
• Successful completion of English 109W/M

Learning Objectives:
• To develop an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of the religious experience
• To identify the principal values and precepts of various religious traditions, as they are expressed in texts and in the arts
• To present the contributions and perspectives of various ethnic and religious groups as they experience the numinous

Assignments:
4 quizzes
1 mid-term
2 papers
1 Final

Texts: Stephen Prothero, God is Not One
       Robert Ballou, The Portable World Bible

Grading Criteria: Quizzes 20% Mid-term 20%
Papers 40% Final 20%

Grade Assignments:
>85 A  80-84   A-
77-79 B+  74-76   B  70-73   B-
67-69 C+  64-66   C  60-63   C-
57-59 D+  54-56   D  50-53   D-
<50 F
No consideration will be given to what grade you need or what grade you think you deserve. There shall be no make-up exams or late papers without compelling reasons (medical or family emergency). All unexcused missed exams and papers will automatically be assigned an F grade, as will all plagiarized work.

Class Schedule:

9/1 Homo Religiosus: The religious propensities of humankind
9/8 Vedic Religion and the Upanishadic reformation (B: 17-27, 32-58; P: Chp.4)
9/15 The Bhagavad-gita and Popular Hinduism (B: 27-31, 58-91; P: Chp.4)
9/22 Buddha's teaching (B: 105-134, 142-148; P: Chp.5)
9/29 Mahayana Buddhism (B: 148-155; P: Chp.5)
10/6 Confucianism (B: 483-491, 498-529; P: Chp.3)
10/13 Daoism (B: 533-574; P: Chp.8)
10/20 Mid-term; First paper due
10/27 Instructor absent
11/3 Abraham and the Early Patriarchs (B: 219-230, 235-332; P: Chp.7)
11/10 The prophetic tradition (B: 333-345; P: chp.7)
11/17 Jesus' teaching (B: 385-412; P: Chp.2)
11/24 Jesus' teaching revised (B: 412-434; P: Chp.2)
12/1 Mohammed's teaching (B: 437-469; P: Chp.1)
12/8 Contemporary Islam (P: Chp.1) Second paper due