

**HRS 140
Fall 2009**

Exploring World Religions

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Office Hours: TR 1:30-2:30pm, on-line, and by appointment

TR 140 7:30-8:45AM Mendocino 4004
TR 140 9:00-10:15AM Mendocino 1024

This is an Intensive Writing course. An appropriate WPJ unit placement or WPF score is required in order to register for HRS 140.

Special Note: The information in this syllabus is subject to change as issues related to furlough planning are updated and resolved.

Catalog Course Description

Comparative inquiry into the nature of global religions. Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese Religions, Judaism, Christianity, 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 numinous will be emphasized.

Learning Objectives

This course examines Asian and Western religious traditions in contemporary and historical contexts.

Students explain, discuss, and interpret the topics listed in the syllabus. In addition to its inherent merits, comprehension of religious tradition offers a unique perspective into the understanding of a culture's foundational structures. Students expand their knowledge of world religions and cross-cultural connections. The multicultural topics for the course fulfill the department's and university's mission of educating globally informed citizens.

Students investigate spirituality, art, and cultural identity through individual investigation, culminating in a substantial research paper.

Required Texts

Living Religions, 7th edition. Mary Pat Fisher.

Recommended Reading

There are optional recommended texts for each tradition on sale in the Hornet Bookstore to whet your appetite and guide you through the spiritual journey:

John L. Esposito. What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam

Gai-fu Feng and Jane English, translators. Tao Te Ching

Mohandas K. Gandhi. Gandhi An Autobiography: My Experiments With Truth

Thich Nhat Hanh. The Miracle of Mindfulness

Chichung Huang, translator. The Analects of Confucius

Maria Jaoudi. Christian & Islamic Spirituality

Maria Jaoudi. Christian Mysticism East & West

John Daido Looi. The Eight Gates of Zen: Spiritual Training In An American Zen Monastery

Gurinder Singh Mann. Sikhism

Daniel Matt, translator. The Essential Kabbalah

Patrick Olivelle, translator. The Upanisads

No electronics:

This includes cell phones and laptops which must be Off and out of sight during class.

Class Schedule

Reading Assignments **(Living Religions)**

Week 1 & 2	Introduction to the Study of Religion	
	What is the Sacred? Beliefs and Practices	Chapters 1, 2, & 13
Weeks 3-4	Judaism	Chapter 8 & 11

In-class

Thursday 24 September

**ON-LINE FIRST EXAM
Including Fisher Chapters 1, 2, 11, & 13**

Weeks 5-6 Christianity

Chapter 9

**Thursday 24 September 12:30am -
Friday 25 September 11:00pm**

FIRST RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Week 7-8 Islam

Chapter 10

THURSDAY 1 October

NO CLASS

**ON-LINE MIDTERM EXAM
Includes Fisher Chapters 8, 9, 10**

Week 9-10 Hinduism

Chapter 3 & 12

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER

**Thursday 15 October 12:30am -
Friday 16 October 11:00pm**

Week 11-12 Buddhism

Chapter 4 & 5

Week 13 Chinese Buddhism

Chapter 5 & 7

No Class

**RESEARCH DAY
(Complete 15 pages of Research paper)**

Tuesday 24 November

Week 14-15 Taoism & Confucianism

Chapter 6

No Class

Thursday 10 December

**ON-LINE FINAL EXAM
Includes Fisher Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

**Thursday 10 December 12:30am -
Friday 11 December 11:00pm**

Week 16

**Mendocino 2018
FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE
(No late papers accepted)**

**15 December
Between 8:30 – 10:00 am**

RESEARCH PAPERS

See Course Policy Instruction Sheet for additional details.

HRS 140 is a writing intensive course, and requires two research papers. These fulfill the 5,000 word advanced writing requirement.

Read California State University at Sacramento's Advisory Standards for Writing at:

www.csus.edu/acaf/umannual/advstndrds.htm

The first paper due is 5 pages of written text with 4 pages of illustrations.

The final paper includes the corrected first 5 pages of written text and illustrations, with an additional 10 pages of text.

Include a title and bibliography page with each paper. Include at least 5 scholarly sources in the final bibliography to show research progression throughout the semester.

The final research paper requires 15 pages of written text and 4 pages of illustrations on an artist or on a few representative works from a specific culture expressing the Sacred. Consult the professor before finalizing a choice in the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, or music.

Examples of individual artists in recent American history include: Georgia O'Keeffe, Nancy Holt, R. Buckminster Fuller, Ansel Adams, and Alan Hovhaness.

Other examples: The Hopi kachinas, made from the roots of dead cottonwood trees, represent supernatural spirits in carved forms like crows and butterflies, integrating painting and sculpture.

East Asian civilizations contain numerous artists and works expressing the sacred, whether based in Daoist, Confucian, Buddhist, or Shinto tradition. The seventeenth century Chinese painter, Tao-chi, is one example.

First Paper

1. Title Page
2. Text
5 pages of text + 4 Illustrations
3. Quotations and footnotes

4. Bibliography Page

Final Paper

1. Title Page

2. Text

10 pages + 5 corrected pages from the First Paper =
15 pages of text + 4 Illustrations

5. Quotations and footnotes

6. Bibliography Page

Students find it helpful to look at student research papers from past semesters; therefore, sample student papers are available in class throughout the semester.

**Research Papers are due at the beginning of class
No late papers accepted.**