

**HRS 140**  
**Fall 2008**

## *Exploring World Religions*

*Dr. Maria Jaoudi*

Office: Mendocino 2018

E-mail: jaoudim@csus.edu

Telephone: (916) 278-7483

Office Hours: TR 9:00-10:00am; Tuesday 4:15-5:15pm; and by appointment

TR 140-03 7:30-8:45AM Mendocino 4004

TR 140-04 10:30-11:45AM Mendocino 4004

**This is an Intensive Writing course. Passing grade on the WPE is required in order to register for HRS 140.**

### 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

Beginning with examples of the ancient traditions of Asian and Western religions, the methodology of the course is historical.

Students should be able, by the end of the course, to explain, discuss, and interpret, the topics listed in the syllabus. The comprehension of a tradition's religion offers a unique opportunity to understand the foundational structures of a culture. Students will increase their knowledge of world religions and the cross-cultural connections between diverse cultures. The multicultural range of topics for the course will also fulfill the department's and university's mission of educating students to be globally informed.

Students will also have the opportunity in their individual research papers to investigate rich cultural ideas on spirituality, art, and cultural identity.

### Required Texts

*\*A used copy of your book will help defray the cost.*

Living Religions; 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Mary Pat Fisher. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> editions are fine.

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

## **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 & 13
Weeks 3-4	Judaism	Chapter 8
Weeks 5-6	Christianity	Chapter 9
Week 7-8	Islam	Chapter 10

**IN-CLASS WRITING REVIEW**                      **TUESDAY**      **14 OCTOBER 2008**  
(Remember: Do not be late!)

**FIRST RESEARCH PAPER DUE**                      **TUESDAY**      **14 OCTOBER 2008**  
(No late papers accepted)

Week 9-10	Hinduism	Chapter 3
Week 11-12	Buddhism	Chapter 5

**RESEARCH DAY - NO CLASS**                      **20 NOVEMBER 2008**  
(**THURSDAY**)

Week 13	Chinese Buddhism	Chapter 5
Week 14-15	Taoism & Confucianism	Chapter 6

**IN-CLASS WRITING REVIEW**  
(Remember: Do not be late!)

Thursday 11 December 2008

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

Thursday 11 December 2008

## **RESEARCH PAPERS**

**See Course Policy Instruction Sheet for additional details.**

Two research papers are required in HRS 140 which is an intensive writing course. Your research papers fulfill the 5,000 word writing requirement.

Please read carefully California State University at Sacramento's Advisory Standards for Writing at:

[www.csus.edu/acad/umanual/advstndrds.htm](http://www.csus.edu/acad/umanual/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 the additional 10 pages of text.

Include a Title and Bibliography page with each paper. The final Bibliography will demonstrate how your research progressed throughout the semester.

The ***final Research paper totals 15 pages of written text with the additional 4 pages of illustrations*** on an artist or on a few representative works from a specific culture expressing the Sacred. Please consult me before finalizing your choice in the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, and music.

If you need ideas, here are different examples: Georgia O'Keeffe, Nancy Holt, R. Buckminster Fuller, Ansel Adams, and Alan Hovhaness, are individual artists in recent American history.

Indigenous cultures are engaging. The Hopi kachinas are made from the roots of dead cottonwood trees. They are supernatural spirits represented in carved forms such as crows or butterflies integrating painting and sculpture.

The humanities of traditional East Asian civilizations, with their Daoist, Confucian, Buddhist, and/or Shinto foundation, contain numerous representative artists and works expressing the Sacred. The seventeenth century Chinese painter, Tao-chi, is a personal favorite of mine.

### **First Paper**

1. Title Page
2. Text  
5 pages of text + 4 Illustrations
3. Scholarly Citations
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. Scholarly Citations
6. Bibliography Page

Students have found it helpful to look at student research papers from past semesters. I will, therefore, bring Sample student papers to class throughout the semester.

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