

HRS 140
Spring 2007

Exploring World Religions

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

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 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

The Miracle of Mindfulness. Thich Nhat Hanh

World Religions Today. John Esposito, Darrell Fasching, Todd Lewis. 2nd edition

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

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.

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**