

HRS 140  
GE AREA C3  
SPRING 2007  
DR. NYSTROM

COURSE TITLE: “Exploring World Religions”

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A comparative inquiry into the nature of great religions of the world. Emphasis on Buddhism, Hinduism and other non-western religions, particularly as they relate to Christianity and Judaism.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students who complete this course will understand the essential beliefs, practices, and institutions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. They will also be able to explain in detail the most important similarities and differences between these religious systems.

ASSIGNMENTS: Four quizzes, two papers, final examination. See below for descriptions and point values.

TEXTS:

Molloy, Experiencing the World’s Religions  
B. Stoler Miller, trans., The Bhagavad Gita  
E.A. Burtt, ed., The Teachings of the Compassionate Buddha  
Dawood, trans., The Qur’an

The Hebrew Bible (= Old Testament)  
New Testament

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office hours: Mendocino 2024

MW 11:00-12:00 and 8:20-8:50

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### WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

Week 1:	Introduction, Primitive Religions, Hinduism
Weeks 2-3:	Hinduism
Weeks 4-5:	Buddhism
Week 6:	Buddhism, Confucianism
Week 7:	Confucianism, Daoism
Week 8:	Daoism, Judaism
Weeks 9-10:	Judaism
Weeks 11-12:	Christianity
Week 13:	Christianity, Islam
Weeks 14-15:	Islam

### GRADES:

Your course grade will be based on your scores on the quizzes, papers, and final examination. There will be no make-up quizzes. However, you can miss one quiz without penalty since only your best three quiz scores will count in the calculation of your course grade.

A	93-100% of the 450 points possible for the course
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	73-77%
C-	70-72%
D+	68-69%
D	63-67%
D-	60-62%
F	59% and below

Please do not tell me at any point during the semester what grade you might need, whether to get into graduate school, maintain your perfect 4.0, keep your financial aid, or avoid academic probation.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, EXAMS AND PAPERS:

- February 19: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures; Molloy, chapters 1 and 3, Bhagavad Gita
- March 21: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since last quiz; Molloy, chapters 4 and 6; and the following selections from Burt:  
"The Sermon at Benares"  
"Questions Not Tending to Edification"  
"The Parable of the Mustard Seed"  
"The Buddha's Farewell Address"  
"The Way of Truth"  
"What is Nirvana?" (Theravada View)  
"The Bodhisattva's Vow of Universal Redemption"  
"The Eternal Buddha of Countless Worlds"  
"What is Nirvana?" (Mahayana View)
- March 21: PAPER #1 (100 points) DUE
- May 2: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Molloy, chapters 8 and 9; Genesis 1-3, Exodus 1-20, and Psalms 19, 23, 66, 81 (in the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament); Gospel of John (in the New Testament)
- May 21: PAPER #2 (100 points) DUE
- May 21: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Molloy, chapter 10; Qur'an, 2, 4, 13, 16, 23, 24, 35, 37, 47, 67, 112.
- May 21: FINAL (100 points; on all lectures and readings for the course)

TERM PAPERS:

The term paper assignments will be distributed at the beginning and midpoints of the semester.