

JAOUDI-HRS140-SP15

Exploring World Religions

Spring 2015

Dr. Maria Jaoudi

Office: Mendicino 2018

MW 12:00-1:15 Mendicino 1024

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Office Hours: MW 11-12:00 Noon; TR 3:00–5:00pm online; and by appointment

This is an Intensive Writing course. An appropriate WPJ unit placement or WPF score 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

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 departments and university's mission of educating globally informed citizens.

It is a graduation requirement that “courses designated as Writing Intensive build on the basic skills and knowledge acquired by students in their foundation courses in General Education or the major. These courses are to expand students' knowledge by examining complex issues and they are to advance students' abilities to reason logically and to write clearly in prose.” Students investigate religious traditions and cultural identity through individual research. As a writing intensive course, students will build on the skills they have learned and now conveyed through sophisticated writing methodology and the pedagogy of the class culminating in a substantial research paper. The professor will work with each student to hone their research including online bibliographic investigations, critical thinking, and writing style both in class and individually.

Required Texts

OPEN BOOK EXAMS

Be sure to have your books and downloaded essays annotated and available for each exam

Living Religions, Mary Pat Fisher. Exam questions are based on the 7th up through the latest edition. This keeps student costs down.

Check the HRS 140 SacCT web links for Reading, Writing, and Note-taking

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 Mysticism East & West
Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality

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

Daniel Matt, translator. The Essential Kabbalah

Patrick Olivelle, translator. The Upanisads

W. Owen Cole and Piara Singh Sambhi, The Sikhs: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices

No electronics: All electronics must be put away and out of sight; that means not on the desk or in view. The professor wants students to benefit from the in-class community experience, and not be interrupted by the distractions of electronics.

Turn cell phones, laptops, etcetera, off at the beginning of class. Students caught with electronics on must leave the classroom.

Class Schedule

Reading Assignments

Weeks 1 & 2 Introduction to the Study of Religion

What is the Sacred?
Beliefs and Practices

Mary Pat Fisher
Chapters 1, 2, & 13

DISCUSSION ON WRITING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON BLACKBOARD FOR THE RESEARCH PAPERS

THE SCHEDULE OF THE FIRST EXAM AND MIDTERM IS IN ORDER FOR STUDENTS TO HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO STUDY DURING THE EARLIER WEEKS OF CLASS. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS EXTRA TIME TO STUDY

Weeks 3-4 Judaism Fisher, Chapters 8 & 11

Recommended reading: The Essential Kabbalah; Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality, especially Chapter 3 *The Jewish Mystical View: The Kabbalah*

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC TBA

Wednesday 11 February

Q & A ON WRITING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

Weeks 5-6 Christianity Fisher, Chapter 9

Recommended reading: Christian Mysticism East & West

On SacCT, print and study the link: Hildegard of Bingen: The Many Realities of Consciousness

First Exam Online – No Class

OPEN BOOK

Wednesday 11 March 12:30am – Thursday 12 March 11:00pm

Including Fisher Chapters 1, 2, 11, 13

Weeks 7-8 Islam Fisher Chapter 10
Recommended reading: Medieval & Renaissance Spirituality; especially
Chapter 7 *Islamic Love Mysticism: Rabi'a and Rumi*

Download, print, and study, the articles in the section, A God-Centered Ecology
http://www.gratefulness.org/t/motherearth_links.htm

FIRST RESEARCH PAPER DUE
At the beginning of class – No late papers accepted

Monday 16 March

Week 8

MIDTERM EXAM ONLINE – No Class **OPEN BOOK**
Wednesday 1 April 12:30am - Thursday 2 April 11:00pm

Includes Fisher Chapters 8, 9, 10
Judaism, Christianity, Islam in-class materials and printed essay chapters

Weeks 9-10 Hinduism Fisher Chapter 3 & 12
Recommended reading: Gandhi An Autobiography: My Experiments with Truth

In-Class: FIRST RESEARCH PAPER RETURNED WITH COMMENTS & CORRECTIONS

Weeks 11-12 Buddhism Fisher, Chapters 4 & 5
Recommended reading: The Miracle of Mindfulness by Thich Nhat Hanh

FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE
At the beginning of class – No late papers accepted

Monday 27 April

Week 13 Chinese Buddhism Fisher, Chapters 5 & 7

Recommended reading: The Eight Gates of Zen by John Daido Looi

Weeks 14-15 Daoism & Confucianism Fisher, Chapter 6
Recommended reading: Tao Te Ching, translated by Gai-fu Feng and Jane English
The Analects of Confucius, translated by Chichung Huang

Week 16

ON-LINE FINAL EXAM **OPEN BOOK**
NOTE THE FINAL EXAM DAYS & DATES
Monday 18 May 12:30am – Wednesday 20 May 11:00pm

Includes Fisher Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, in-class materials

RESEARCH PAPERS

HRS 140 is a writing intensive course, and formal research papers are required fulfilling the 5,000 word advanced writing assignment.

Check SacCT for helpful research, reading, and writing websites, and examples of scholarly papers. “Wikipedia”, for example, is not a scholarly source.

Format the paper with quotations/citations, title page, endnotes, and bibliography. Include at least 7 scholarly sources in each paper’s bibliography to show research progression throughout the semester.

First & Final Research Papers

1. Title page
2. 10 pages of text
3. Quotations and footnotes
4. Bibliography page

Please number the pages, double space, and use 12-point font Times New Roman. Carefully read the California State University's Advisory Standards for Writing at:

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

In HRS 140 information., each research paper needs seven scholarly sources. Include a separate page for bibliography. Diana Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual* and Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* are available in the Hornet Bookstore at reasonable prices. The Turabian is a helpful guide for footnoting, formatting additional references, and citing an interview. Turabian is also an invaluable resource professionally after graduation. There are also helpful Web Links on SacCT with writing and bibliographic information.

For free, one-on-one help with reading and writing in any class, visit the University Reading and Writing Center (URWC) in Calaveras 128. The URWC can help you at any stage in your reading and writing processes: coming up with a topic, developing and organizing a draft, understanding difficult texts, or developing strategies to become a better editor. To make an appointment or a series of appointments, visit the URWC in CLV 128. For current URWC hours and more information, visit www.csus.edu/writingcenter

Late papers are not accepted. Electronic papers are not accepted. See the syllabus for the due dates. Research papers are collected at the beginning of class on the date listed on the syllabus. There are no exceptions to this policy. I will make use of academic software to verify that each student is the original author of her/his paper. Students whose work contains at least one plagiarized sentence will receive an F for the course.

Student Tutorial on how not to plagiarize:
<http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>

Course Policy for Dr. Jaoudi's HRS Courses

Students are responsible for reading assignments, lecture materials, exams, the research paper, and films, depending on the class syllabus.

There are three open book online exams; see the Syllabus Schedule. The exams are not cumulative. For example, exam #2 begins where the previous exam ends.

Each on-line exam contains multiple choice and true/false questions based on ideas and vocabulary obtained from notes on lectures, class discussions, hand-outs, reading assignments, and films, depending on the course content. Each exam contains 30-35 questions. Please check your Syllabus on SacCT for the exact on-line exam times and dates.

For one-on-one walk-in and by appointment tutoring help with SacCT, contact the Student Technology Center at stc@csus.edu/telephone (916) 278-2364/Academic Computing Resources building Room 3007.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Students are required to take exams in a University Computer Lab <http://www.csus.edu/irt/Labs/locations.html> insuring assistance with any technology issues. If a student does not take the exams in a University Computer Lab, he/she takes full responsibility to resolve any technical issues on their own. Keep in mind that this means the student is responsible for following instructions and a reliable internet connection. If a student's connection fails, there is no second chance to take the exam. To repeat, please take the exams on campus to insure you do not receive a zero on an exam. Do not contact the professor concerning any technological problems - please contact the Service Desk (ARC 2005) at servicedesk@csus.edu or 278-7337.

It is the student's responsibility to note answers given to the online test questions, in order to benefit from the responses after the exam.

There are no make-up exams; if an exam is not taken, the student is automatically assigned an F grade. Therefore, make sure the exact dates and times of exams are duly noted.

There is no extra credit.

At no time is it appropriate to ask the professor to increase a grade in order to accommodate an individual desire for a higher GPA without matching grade performance.

After the official drop period, any drops, withdrawals, or incompletes, will only be considered if there is documented evidence of an unforeseen emergency, death, or surgery. Invalid reasons include: Not being able to keep up with the reading, receiving a poor grade on an exam(s), work schedule, moving to an apartment, or going on vacation.

Students with disabilities who require special accommodation must provide disability documentation at SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008 (916) 278-6955. Students with special testing needs must provide the appropriate forms at least two weeks prior to an exam in order to schedule with the Testing Center.

In HRS 140, each exam is 20% of the grade. Exams comprise 60% of the final grade and the research papers 40%. In HRS 152, HRS 155, and HRS 183, each exam is 1/4 of the grade. In face-to-face classes, more than two or three absences indicate a lack of participation, even as a listener. At the discretion of the professor, a student's final grade for the course may go up or down depending on attendance, participation, and research-writing performance.

The attendance policy of the Department of Humanities and Religious Studies is that a "maximum of one week of absences from a class is allowable without penalty: three absences for a class that meet on MWF, two for one that meets on TR, and one for a class that meets once a week. The

normal departmental policy is to reduce the grade one-half step for every absence beyond the allowable maximum of one week of absences.”

Do not come late to class or leave the classroom while the class is in session. Attendance is taken once; students not present will be marked absent. In the event of tardiness, do not enter the classroom; it disturbs the class. No exceptions are made to these policies of mutual consideration and civility.

Employ only academically appropriate language and behavior.