

Fall 2012

HRS 140

Exploring World Religions

Dr. Maria Jaoudi

Office: Mendocino 2018

TU 6:00 – 8:50pm Mendocino 1024

E-mail: jaoudim@csus.edu

Telephone: (916) 278-7483

Office Hours: TU 4:00-5:30pm; MW 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 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, Exam questions are based on the 7th or 8th editions only. Mary Pat Fisher.

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 **(Living Religions)**

Weeks 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

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

RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS DUE

Tuesday 18 September

Weeks 5-6 Christianity

Chapter 9

Recommended reading: Christian Mysticism East & West

Week 7

First Exam Online

Wednesday 10 October 12:30am – Thursday 11 October 11:00pm

Including Fisher Chapters 1, 2, 11, 13

Weeks 7-8 Islam

Chapter 10

Recommended reading: Medieval & Renaissance Spirituality; especially
Chapter 7 *Islamic Love Mysticism: Rabi'a and Rumi*

Weeks 9-10 Hinduism

Chapter 3 & 12

Recommended reading: Gandhi An Autobiography: My Experiments with Truth

ON-LINE MIDTERM EXAM

Wednesday 24 October 12:30am - Thursday 25 October 11:00pm

Includes Fisher Chapters 8, 9, 10

Judaism, Christianity, Islam in-class materials

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

Week 13 Chinese Buddhism Chapter 5 & 7
Recommended reading: The Eight Gates of Zen by John Daido Looi

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

Final Research Paper due

Tuesday 4 December

At the beginning of class – No late papers accepted

Week 16

ON-LINE FINAL EXAM

Wednesday 12 December 12:30am - Thursday 13 December 11:00pm

Includes Fisher Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism in-class materials

RESEARCH PAPERS

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

Check SacCT for helpful Research, Reading, and Writing websites.

Format all papers in the APA style. This includes citations and title page formatting. APA allows both footnotes and endnotes; either is fine, but please use the same type for your entire paper.

Include a title and bibliography page with each paper. Include at least 7 scholarly sources in the final bibliography to show research progression throughout the semester. Check the SacCT websites on Research for a definition of scholarly sources. “Wikipedia,” for example, is not a scholarly source.

The final paper includes 15 pages of written text and 4 pages of illustrations.

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.

SacCT also contains a list of possible research topics from around the world.

Final Paper

1. Title Page
2. Text 15 pages + 4 Illustrations
3. Quotations and footnotes
4. 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.

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

www.csus.edu/acad/umanual/advstndrds.htm

In **HRS 140**, student research papers need 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 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 date. Research papers are collected at the beginning of class on that date. There are no exceptions to this policy.

For a copy of the final paper, with comments, provide the professor with an additional copy of the paper and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Turn these in with the research paper. To protect against plagiarism, copies are kept with the professor.

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 on-line 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.

*******Students are required to take the exams in the Student Technology Center insuring assistance with any technology issues. If a student does not take the exams at STC, he/she takes full responsibility to resolve any technical issues on their own. Do not contact the professor concerning any technological problems, if you did not take the exam in the Student Technology Center.**

It is the student's responsibility to remember 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 25% of the grade. Exams comprise 75% of the final grade and the research paper 25%. 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 and participation.

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 other students. No exceptions are made to these policies of mutual consideration and civility.

Employ only academically appropriate language and behavior.