

**HRS 140  
Spring 2010**

**Exploring World Religions**

Dr. Maria Jaoudi

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Office Hours: T 12:00-1:30pm, MW 3:00–5:00pm online, and by appointment

TR 140 9:00-10:15AM Mendocino 1026

TR 140 10:30-11:15AM Mendocino 1024

**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, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Mary Pat Fisher.

Check the HRS 140 SacCT web links for Reading, Writing, and Notetaking

**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 & Islamic Spirituality

Maria Jaoudi. Christian Mysticism East & West

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

Gurinder Singh Mann. Sikhism

Daniel Matt, translator. The Essential Kabbalah

Patrick Olivelle, translator. The Upanisads

## **No electronics:**

**Turn cell phones and laptops off at the beginning of class.** Students caught with laptops and cell phones 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

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Weeks 3-4                      Judaism    Chapter 8 & 11

**No Class**

**Thursday 18 February**

**ON-LINE FIRST EXAM  
Including Fisher Chapters 1, 2, 11, & 13**

**Thursday 18 February 12:30am -  
Friday 19 February 11:00pm**

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Weeks 5-6                      Christianity

Chapter 9

**FIRST RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

**THURSDAY 25 February**

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Week 7-8                      Islam

Chapter 10

**NO CLASS**

**THURSDAY 11 March**

**ON-LINE MIDTERM EXAM  
Includes Fisher Chapters 8, 9, 10**

**Thursday 11 March 12:30am -  
Friday 12 March 11:00pm**

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Weeks 9-10                      Hinduism

Chapter 3 & 12

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Weeks 11-12                      Buddhism

Chapter 4 & 5

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Week 13                      Chinese Buddhism

Chapter 5 & 7

Weeks 14-15                      Taoism & Confucianism

Chapter 6

**Final Research Paper due**  
**At the beginning of class – No late papers accepted**

**Tuesday 11 May**

**No Class**

**Thursday 13 May**

**ON-LINE FINAL EXAM**  
**Includes Fisher Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

**Thursday 13 May 12:30am -**  
**Friday 14 May 11:00pm**

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## **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.

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 an additional 10 pages of text.

Include a title and bibliography page with each paper. Include at least 5 scholarly sources in the final bibliography to show research progression throughout the semester.

***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.

## **First Paper**

1. Title Page

2. Text

5 pages of text + 4 Illustrations

3. Quotations and footnotes

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

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/acaf/umannual/advstndrds.htm](http://www.csus.edu/acaf/umannual/advstndrds.htm)

In **HRS 140**, student research papers need five 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.

For free, one-on-one **help** with choosing a topic, understanding difficult texts, and writing the research paper, contact the **University Writing Center** at (916) 278-6356 or [www.csus.edu/writingcenter](http://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 is 50 minutes long with 30 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](mailto: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.

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.**

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 paper and class participation 20% each. In **HRS 152, HRS 155, and HRS 183**, each exam is 1/3 of the grade. To determine the final grade, the 90% for exams is combined with 10% for active class participation. More than one or two absences indicate a lack of participation, even as a listener.

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.