



University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

HIS 140/REL 130 World History: World Religions in Historical Perspective

Term: July 2 – August 2, 2018

Instructor: Ian Coller

Home Institution: University of California, Irvine

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion Session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 66 contact hours (45 minutes each)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

This class will introduce students to a number of the world's major religious traditions in both their classical formulations and their contemporary significance. Our focus will be not so much on religious doctrine as it will be on the ways in which the historical trajectory of any religion reflects as well as shapes the myths, symbols, ethical practices, and world view of the culture and people from which it grew. By the end of the course, students will be able to describe several major religious traditions and will have gained an understanding of the diversity and commonalities of religious life in various cultures and historical periods, as well as how and why people and societies manifest religious belief in these particular ways. Traditions to be considered include: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Daoism Shinto, and Islam.

Required Textbook:

All students are expected to have purchased the following text by the first day of class.
Michael Malloy. Experiencing the World's Religions. McGraw Hill, 2009. 5th Edition.

Academic Honesty:

Exams and quizzes contain a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Looking at a fellow student's exam is a form of cheating and is unacceptable. Any student caught doing so will receive a failing grade for the exam or quiz. Short answer questions are to be completed in a student's own words. Reproducing definitions or answers from another source, including the web, will be regarded as a form of plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the quiz or exam. Your continued enrollment in this class constitutes your acceptance of these conditions.

Grading Policy:

Course grades will be based on attendance* and participation (10%), weekly quizzes (20%), a mid-term exam (35%), and a final exam (35%)

*All students are allowed two unexcused absences. Four unexcused absences will reduce your course grade by half a grade (e.g. B to B-). Eight unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Grading Scale:

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Course Schedule:

Early Religions/Hinduism Lectures:

Lectures:

- ✧ Course Introduction, What is Religion?
- ✧ The First Faiths
- ✧ Hindu Visions of the Cosmos
- ✧ Deities, Castes, and Social Implications

Readings:

Molloy, Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Hinduism/Buddhism

Lectures:

- ✧ Modern Hinduism
- ✧ Siddhartha Gautama and the Origins of Buddhism
- ✧ Buddhist Conceptions of the World
- ✧ Buddhism after Buddha, Early Divisions

Readings:

Molloy, Chapter 4,

Buddhism/Daoism/Shinto

Lectures:

- ✧ Chinese Traditions: Daoism and Confucianism
- ✧ Buddhism in China
- ✧ Tibetan Buddhism and Buddhism Today
- ✧ Shinto
- ✧ Mid-term Exam

Readings:

Molloy, Chapters 6 and 7

Judaism

Lectures:

- ✧ Roots of Judaism
- ✧ Babylon, Exodus and the Rabbinic Tradition
- ✧ Elements of Jewish Faith
- ✧ Judaism Today, from the Holocaust to Israel

Readings:

Molloy, Chapter 8



Christianity:

Lectures:

- ◇ The Life of Jesus
- ◇ Elements of Christian Faith
- ◇ The Reformation and Dissent
- ◇ Christianity in Modern Culture and Society

Readings:

Molloy, Chapter 9

Islam

Lectures:

- ◇ Origins of Islam--Muhammad the Prophet
- ◇ The Koran, and the Five Pillars
- ◇ Islamic Empires, Islamic Law
- ◇ Islam in the 20th Century
- ◇ Final exam

Readings:

Molloy, Chapter 10