



University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

REL 110 World Religions

Term: May 28 – June 28, 2018

Instructor: John Kunich

Home Institution: Belmont Abbey College

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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 course provides an introduction to the world's largest faith traditions. Our goal is to gain, as far as is possible, a participant's appreciation of what is cherished by adherents of these traditions. After an introduction describing the methods, history, and controversies in the academic field of religious studies, we will examine – through a phenomenological lens - the rituals, ceremonies, teachings, beliefs and worldview assumptions of adherents of the Religions of India (Jainism, Hinduism, Sikhism), Religions of China, Australasia and the Pacific Islands, Buddhism, Shinto, Religions of Persia/Iran, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Issues of religion and violence and religious responses to social issues – such as environmentalism, sexism, and poverty – will also be discussed.

Course Goals:

The subject aims at providing students with a fundamental understanding of diverse types of religious and religious practices in today's world. At the same time, the course will examine the complex nature of religious phenomena, including religious knowledge and competing truth claims.

The goals of the course are to aid students in their future interactions with adherents of other faith traditions and to provide them with an accurate historical, creedal and experiential introduction to the worldview assumptions and religious experiences of adherents of various traditions. In addition to a sense of basic "literacy" of terms and major historical events and personages in the development of these traditions, students will also be encouraged to reflect on the centrality of religious faith for many worldwide and explore possible roles for religion in social progress.

Required Textbook:

- ✧ Coelho, Paulo **The Alchemist**.
- ✧ Molloy, Michael. **Experiencing the World Religions**.
- ✧ Novak, Philip, **The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions**, San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1995.

Grading Policy:

For Written Assignments -You'll be graded on these criteria:

- ✧ Induction: Are the conclusions in writing based on concrete evidence?
- ✧ Accuracy: Are inferences drawn have clear relation to texts consulted?
- ✧ Originality: Is your writing fresh and do you properly cite other sources?
- ✧ Depth: Are issues probed w/thoroughness & focus? Do not simply "re-tell."
- ✧ Organization: Does your writing show a logical procession?
- ✧ Relative thoroughness: Is writing as complete as possible?
- ✧ Clarity: Have you expressed ideas with directness? No page-limit "filler."
- ✧ Format: Have you double-spaced, typed, and proofread all work? Did you avoid sexist language? Is your name/page # on each page? Did you include a cover-sheet with your name/student I.D./Time of class?

Late Work is not accepted. Any plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated and will result in FAILING THE ENTIRE CLASS. Final grades are not reviewable; ask any questions at all before grades are submitted.

Assignments:

- ✧ A 5-7 page (double-spaced)- Response to Coelho book (100 points) Write in the form of a letter to author and tell how your own views relate to/differ from the themes of the book. Ask questions. Include cover page/name each page.
- ✧ Midterm Test (worth 100 points)
- ✧ Final Examination (100 points)

A Note about Inclusive Language: Inclusive language recognizes that language can exclude or marginalize women. Ways to write with more inclusive language include using the plural form, omitting pronouns, using formal style or using compound words (he/she). One can also use articles in place of pronouns, repeat nouns, use the passive voice or use specific examples.

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 |

Class Rules:

Turn cell phones to vibrate and DO NOT text in class. If you need to check your phone/email/send a text leave the room. Texting in class, talking in class, late arrivals or early departures will result in points lost from final (without appeal). Computers for note-taking is fine but no hand-held devices are allowed in class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave class to aid other students learning.

Attendance Policy:



Students will be strictly held to the attendance policies of UIBE and are strongly advised to be aware of this policy. For example, only absences approved by the UIBE attendance policy will be accepted without penalty.

Course Schedule:

WEEK ONE

Introduction

Discussion of the Syllabus

Religions of India, I

Reading: Molloy Chapter on Hinduism

Religions of India, II

Reading: Novak Chapter on Hinduism – Bring book to class

Religions of India, III

Reading: Molloy Reading on Jainism and Sikhism

Review of Religions of India, Film

WEEK TWO

Religions of Japan/Korea

Reading/Discussion of the Molloy Chapter on Japanese Religion

Assign. #1- Write 2-5 p. response to Coelho Book–Write a Letter to Author

Buddhism, I

Reading: Molloy Chapter on Buddhism

Buddhism, II

Reading: Novak Chapter on Buddhism – Bring book to class

Test One

Test Return/Review

WEEK THREE

Religions of Native America, Australasia, Oceania “Oral Religions” Reading/Discussion of the Molloy and Novak Chapter on Oral Traditions

Religions of China, I

Reading: Molloy Chapter on Religions of China

Religions of China, II - Taoism

Reading/Discussion of the Readings: Novak Chapter –Taoism – Bring book to class



Religion of China, III - Confucianism

Reading/Discussion of the Readings: Novak Chapter on Confucianism - Bring book to class

Judaism, I - Guest Presenter/Film, TBA

WEEK FOUR

Judaism, II

Readings: Molloy Chapter on Judaism

Judaism, III

Readings: Novak Chapter on Judaism – Bring Book to Class

Christianity – (The First Thousand Years), I

Reading: Molloy Chapter on Christianity

Christianity – (The Catholic Church – From St. Peter to Pope Francis), II

Video Excerpt: The Catholic Church

Reading: Novak Chapter on Christianity – Bring Book to Class

Christianity, III – Religion and Violence

Armenia/Terrorism in God's Name - Northern Ireland/Christians in Today's Middle East

WEEK FIVE

Islam, I

Reading: Molloy Chapter on Islam

Islam, II

Reading: Novak Chapter on Islam – Please Bring Book to Class

Islam, III

FINAL EXAMINATION/ Assignment - TBA

Readings: Molloy Chapter on New Religious Movements