



University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

REL 110 World Religions

Term: May 27 – June 27, 2019

Instructor: Nate Bulthuis

Home Institution: Cornell University

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: To be determined

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description

Religious beliefs and practice have been and remain a dominant force in human culture. This course is intended to be a general introduction to many of today's major world religions. Ideally, students should exit this course with a sense of what religion is, as well as how various religions understand the world and their place within it. Because of the breadth and depth of religious practices, the course can provide only a summary introduction to various faith traditions. But it should equip students to understand what motivates and underpins various faiths, and allow them to gain an understanding of them regardless of one's own religious background and beliefs.

Course Goals

The expectation is that students will leave this course with a nuanced understanding of and appreciation for various world religions, including their origins and belief-systems, and will be able to engage individuals of different religious perspectives in an open and productive manner.

Required Textbooks

IWR: Oxtoby, Willard. *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*, 3rd edition (Oxford University Press, 2011). ISBN: 978-0199008551

GNO: Prothero, Stephen. *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World*. (HarperOne, 2011). ISBN: 978-0061571282



Grading Policy

Grading will be determined by a combination of class attendance and participation, short quizzes at the beginning of some lectures (1-2 per week), and the results of your exams.

Attendance & Participation	30
Quizzes (Cumulative)	20
Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25

Grading Scale

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

Class Rules

Students are expected to come to lecture having read to material assigned for the day, and to be prepared to engage in active discussion about that material. We only progress in study through active exchange of ideas and arguments. Students should also be ready to follow standard academic rules about academic dishonesty (or “plagiarism”).

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all course lectures.

Course Schedule

Date	Notes	Reading	Topics
Week 1 Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4		IWR, ch. 1 IWR, ch. 2 IWR, ch. 3; GNO, ch. 7 IWR, ch. 4; GNO, ch. 2	What is Religion? Indigenous Religious Traditions Judaism Christianity
Week 2 Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4		IWR, ch. 4 IWR, ch. 4 IWR, ch. 5; GNO, ch. 1 IWR, ch. 5	Christianity Christianity Islam Islam
Week 3 Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4	Exam 1	IWR, ch. 5 IWR, ch. 6; GNO, ch. 4 IWR, ch. 6	Islam Hinduism Hinduism
Week 4 Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4		IWR, ch. 7 IWR, ch. 8; GNO, ch. 5 IWR, ch. 9 IWR, ch. 10; GNO, ch. 8	Jainism Buddhism Sikh Traditions Daoism
Week 5 Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4	Exam 2	IWR, ch. 10; GNO, ch. 3 IWR, ch. 11 IWR, ch. 12; GNO, ch. 9	Confucianism Shintoism New Religions and Movements