



## South China Normal University International Summer Session

### 11A01241: World Religions

**Term: July 15th –August 9th, 2019**

**Instructor: Prof. Dyron Daugherty**

**Home Institution: Pepperdine University**

**Credit: 4**

#### Course Description

Religion was part of the earliest human civilizations of which we have any historical knowledge, and it continues to shape human institutions today. For example, Christianity is growing rapidly in the southern hemisphere. The Islamic world is undergoing revival. Hinduism, the world's third largest religion, is vibrant and popular in India. Buddhism's influence continues in many places, notably in Asia and even in the Western world. Judaism is experiencing an Orthodox resurgence. All signs point to religion's future being well-endowed by humanity. This course is a survey of the world's religions, from the earliest religious communities to the modern context. By the end of the term you will have a broad knowledge of the religious beliefs and practices of humankind.

#### Course Goal

A student who successfully completes this course should be able to:

- Comprehend the beliefs, structures, and practices of the major world religions.
- Understand where people of different religions tend to live in the world.
- Understand of the origins of the various world religions.
- Recognize important religious leaders and sacred texts.
- Recognize scholars from the academic study of world religions and engage their ideas.
- Clearly express ideas orally and through writing.
- Discern religious themes in films.
- Converse competently about another religion with a member of that religion.
- Identify several different houses of worship through architecture and signage.
- Understand better the *Tao Te Ching*, a sacred text of Taoism.
- Respect people from religions different from your own.

#### Course Readings

- 1) Robert E. Van Voorst: *RELG: World 2*
- 2) Stephen Mitchell: *Tao Te Ching*



**Grading Scale**

Percentage	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
< 60	F

**Grading**

- **Participation (20%):** Based on four responses to the readings throughout the term. Each response should be 500–600 words (about five-paragraphs). You will respond to four different chapters (from the Van Voorst book) of your choosing. Email your responses to Prof Daughrity when that chapter is due. Each response will be graded on a scale of 0 (poor) to 25 (outstanding). Also involved in the calculation of the participation grade: attendance, keeping up with course readings, and discussion in class.
- **Response to the *Tao Te Ching* (20%):** Students will bring their laptops, ready to answer a question prepared in advance by the professor. No outside materials allowed. Students need to state explicitly on the exam that they did indeed read the entire book. The response time will be 45 minutes.
- **Field Research Response (20%):** Students will choose to explore a religious site belonging to a religion they are unfamiliar with and write a 1000-word (minimum) paper discussing/analyzing their experience.
- **Mid-Term Exam (20%):** The Mid-term Exam will cover the first half of the course and will be made up of short answer, fill in the blank, true/false, and other evaluative methods.
- **Final Exam (20%):** The Final Exam will cover the second half of the course and will be made up of short answer, fill in the blank, true/false, and other evaluative methods.

**Course Schedules**

Day	Date	Topic & Assignments	Readings
Mon	July 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Introduction to the Course</li> <li>• Syllabus Review</li> <li>• Introductory Material</li> </ul>	Chapter 1
Tue	July 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Indigenous Religions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Religions</li> <li>• Native American Religions</li> <li>• African Religions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Chapter 2



Wed	July 17	• Hinduism	Chapter 3
Thu	July 18	• Hinduism	
Fri	July 19	• Buddhism	Chapters 5
Mon	July 22	• Buddhism	
Tue	July 23	• Sikhism	Chapters 6
Wed	July 24	• Daoism and Confucianism	Chapter 7
Thur	July 25	• Daoism and Confucianism • <b>*Mid-Term Exam*</b>	
Fri	July 26	• Zoroastrianism	Chapter 9
Mon	July 29	• Judaism	Chapter 10
Tue	July 30	• Judaism	
Wed	July 31	• Christianity	Chapter 11
Thur	Aug 1	• Christianity	
Fri	Aug 2	• Christianity	
Mon	Aug 5	• Islam	Chapter 12
Tue	Aug 6	• Islam	
Wed	Aug 7	• Islam	
Thur	Aug 8	<i>*Film: Seven Wonders of the Muslim World</i> *Discussion	
Fri	Aug 9	<b>*Final Exam*</b>	