



**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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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                          |
|---------------|-------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b> |       |                        |                                 |
| Day 1         |       | IWR, ch. 1             | What is Religion?               |
| Day 2         |       | IWR, ch. 2             | Indigenous Religious Traditions |
| Day 3         |       | IWR, ch. 3; GNO, ch. 7 | Judaism                         |
| Day 4         |       | IWR, ch. 4; GNO, ch. 2 | Christianity                    |
| <b>Week 2</b> |       |                        |                                 |
| Day 1         |       | IWR, ch. 4             | Christianity                    |
| Day 2         |       | IWR, ch. 4             | Christianity                    |
| Day 3         |       | IWR, ch. 5; GNO, ch. 1 | Islam                           |
| Day 4         |       | IWR, ch. 5             | Islam                           |

|               |        |                         |                             |
|---------------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Week 3</b> |        |                         |                             |
| Day 1         | Exam 1 | IWR, ch. 5              | Islam                       |
| Day 2         |        |                         |                             |
| Day 3         |        | IWR, ch. 6; GNO, ch. 4  | Hinduism                    |
| Day 4         |        | IWR, ch. 6              | Hinduism                    |
| <b>Week 4</b> |        |                         |                             |
| Day 1         |        | IWR, ch. 7              | Jainism                     |
| Day 2         |        | IWR, ch. 8; GNO, ch. 5  | Buddhism                    |
| Day 3         |        | IWR, ch. 9              | Sikh Traditions             |
| Day 4         |        | IWR, ch. 10; GNO, ch. 8 | Daoism                      |
| <b>Week 5</b> |        |                         |                             |
| Day 1         | Exam 2 | IWR, ch. 10; GNO, ch. 3 | Confucianism                |
| Day 2         |        | IWR, ch. 11             | Shintoism                   |
| Day 3         |        | IWR, ch. 12; GNO, ch. 9 | New Religions and Movements |
| Day 4         |        |                         |                             |