



**University of International Business and Economics  
International Summer School**

**REL 110 World Religions**

**Term: May 24 -June 24, 2021**

**Instructor: TBD**

**Home Institution: TBD**

**Email: TBD**

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

**Office Hours: To be determined**

**Teaching Assistant: TBD**

**Email: TBD**

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

**Location: WEB**

**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 the origin, history, beliefs, and practices of religious traditions originating in India (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism), China (Confucianism, Taoism), and Japan (Shintoism), as well as the major Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, including Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism, and Islam, including Sufism and Shiism), indigenous or oral religious traditions, and new religious movements. Ideally, students should exit this course with a sense of what religion is and the methods by which academics in the field of religious studies examine it, as well as how various religious adherents understand the world and their place within it. We will also think seriously throughout this course about the role that these religions do play, and should play, in the modern world. 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 their own religious background and beliefs.

**Course Goals:**

The proximate goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the history, beliefs and practices of the world's major religions, as well as the methods by which scholar engage in the academic study of religion. The expectation, however, is that such an understanding will allow students 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

**ST:** Novak, Philip. *The World’s Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World’s Religions*. HarperOne, 2011. ISBN: 978-1269365352

Hesse, Herman. *Siddhartha*. Bantam, 1982. ISBN: 978-0553208849.

**Assignments:**

Grading will be determined by a combination of participation, quizzes, exam, and a reflection essay.

Attendance & Participation	200 pts
Quizzes (Cumulative)	500 pts
Essay	150 pts

A 4-5 double-spaced response to Herman Hesse’s *Siddhartha*. Write the essay in the form of a letter to Siddhartha’s son, explaining to his son what truth about life Siddhartha believed he had discovered, and how your own views agree with / differ from those of Siddhartha.

The essay is **due at the end of week 4**.

Final Exam	150 pts
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**Grading Scale:**

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

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

**Class Rules:**

Students are expected to watch course videos having **read** to material assigned for the day, and to be prepared to **engage in active discussion** on the discussion boards about that material. Students should also be ready to follow standard academic rules about academic dishonesty (or “plagiarism”).

**Course Schedule:**

The planned schedule is subject to change as the course progresses.

Video	Notes	Reading
<b>Unit 1: Studying Religion (Week 1)</b>		
1. Introduction 2. Early Patterns in Human Religiosity 3. Advanced Patterns in Human Religiosity 4. The Study of Religion	Quiz #1	IWR, pp. 3-9; ST, pp. 354-371 IWR, pp. 9-23 IWR, pp. 23-29
<b>Unit #2: Indigenous Religions (Week 1)</b>		
5. Defining Indigenous Religions  6. Orality in Indigenous Religion 7. Indigenous Practices and Cultural Expressions 8. Colonialism and Recent Developments	Quiz #2	IWR, pp. 31-42 IWR, pp. 42-49; ST, pp. 334-354  IWR, pp. 49-63 IWR, pp. 63-87
<b>Unit #3: Hinduism (Week 2)</b>		
9. Hindu Origins  10. Classical Hinduism  11. Hindu Schools 12. Hindu Practices and Rituals	Quiz #3	IWR, pp. 280-291; ST, pp. 2-23 IWR, pp. 291-303; ST, pp. 24-40 IWR, pp. 303-316; ST, pp. 40-48 IWR, pp. 316-335
<b>Unit #4: Jainism (Week 2)</b>		
13. Jain Origins 14. Jain Practices and Developments	Quiz #4	IWR, pp. 343-356 IWR, pp. 356-377
<b>Unit #5: Buddhism (Week 3)</b>		
15. The Buddha  16. Dharma, Sangha, and the First Vehicle  17. Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism 18. Buddhism in the Modern World	Quiz #5	IWR, pp. 378-389 IWR, pp. 390-403; ST, pp. 65-77 IWR, pp. 403-422; ST, pp. 77-109 IWR, pp. 422-441
<b>Unit #6: East Asian Religions (Week 3)</b>		
19. Religion in the Qin and Han Dynasties  20. Chinese Religion in the Common Era 21. Religion in Korea 22. Religion in Japan	Quiz #6	IWR, pp. 478-505; ST, pp. 111-144 IWR, pp. 505-527; ST, pp. 145-174 IWR, pp. 527-543 IWR, pp. 544-577

<p><b>Unit #7: Judaism (Week 4)</b></p> <p>23. Jewish Identity and Early History</p> <p>24. Rabbinic Judaism</p> <p>25. Judaism Today</p>	<p>Quiz #7</p>	<p>IWR, pp. 90-110; ST, pp. 175-213</p> <p>IWR, pp. 110-126; ST, pp. 213-226</p> <p>IWR, pp. 126-151</p>
<p><b>Unit #8: Christianity (Week 4)</b></p> <p>26. Christian Origins</p> <p>27. Medieval and Early Modern Christianity</p> <p>28. Christianity in the Modern Era to Today</p>	<p>Quiz #8</p>	<p>IWR, pp. 152-174; ST, pp. 227-254</p> <p>IWR, pp. 174-194; ST, pp. 254-279</p> <p>IWR, pp. 194-217</p>
<p><b>Unit #9: Islam (Week 5)</b></p> <p>29. Origins of Islam</p> <p>30. Islamic Practice and Variety</p> <p>31. Islamic Spread and Expression</p>	<p>Quiz #9</p>	<p>IWR, pp. 218-236; ST, pp. 281-311</p> <p>IWR, pp. 236-253; ST, pp. 312-332</p> <p>IWR, pp. 253-279</p>
<p><b>Unit #10: Sikhism (Week 5)</b></p> <p>32. Origins of Sikhism</p> <p>33. Sikh Practice, Expression, and Adaptation</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>	<p>IWR, pp. 442-460</p> <p>IWR, pp. 460-477</p>