

**World Religions**

**Summer 2022**

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| **REL 2300 World Religions** |  |  |
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Text: Prothero, Stephen. ***Religion Matters: An Introduction to the World’s Religions****.* New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2020. E-book.

See instructions in Canvas about the First Day program. You will not need to go the bookstore unless you want a physical copy of the book. Of course you can always try to find it used at an online bookseller.

Specific course objectives (as written and approved by EFSC) are found in the weekly calendar at the end of this syllabus and on the weekly Canvas Home Pages.

Grading: **A** = 90 - 100, **B** = 80 - 89, **C** = 70 - 79, **D** = 60 - 69, **F** = 0 - 59

Discussion Boards 20%

InQuizitives (Online Quiz Activities) 20%

Mid-Term 15%

Final Exam 15%

Religious Experience Paper 20%

Comparison Paper 10%

**COURSE COMPETENCIES**  
Essential Course Requirements  
1. Adequate preparation. Students should expect to spend a minimum of six to eight hours a week completing the requirements for this class (including readings, quizzes, discussions, written assignments, exams, and consistent review of the course material).  
2. Participation. This is an online class. Your success will depend on your prompt completion of assigned readings and online activities, including discussions. Failure to post to the discussion boards during the first week will result in your withdrawal as a “no-show.”   
3. Internet access. Because the course content will be delivered via Canvas, all students must have reliable access to the Internet. Students are responsible for checking Canvas regularly for course updates.  
4. Exams. There will be at least two exams; the Midterm and the Final and possibly one other. The deadline dates for these exams are listed on the Course Schedule. These exams may be taken at home on an open-book, open-notes basis.  
5. Quizzes. There will be a quiz on each reading assignment. These quizzes will be administered in Canvas and can be taken at home on an open-book, open-notes basis.  
6. Discussions. Each student will participate in the discussion boards by making original posts, reading classmates’ posts, and commenting on posts, as assigned. Your overall discussion grade will reflect the percentage of discussions completed satisfactorily.  
7. Papers. Each student will write several response papers. See “Guidelines for Writing Assignments” in the Writing Assignments module for details.

**Course Learning Outcomes**  
After completing REL 2300, students will be able to:  
• explain important concepts in religion, such as myth, ritual, and sacred space.  
• understand the cultural and historical relationships between individual religious traditions and their respective cultures (e.g., Hindu and Buddhism with Indian culture and history or Christianity and Judaism with Euro-American culture and history, etc).  
• identify the founders of and major historical contributors to the world’s religions.  
• demonstrate their understanding of differing concepts of deity.  
• compare and contrast the divisions within religious traditions (e.g., Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism, Protestant and Catholic Christianity).  
• identify major scriptures and sacred texts.  
• understand the key moral and ethical precepts of the various religions.  
• relate the academic study of religion to their everyday experience.

**Policies**

Deadlines are firm. Speak with me *in advance* about any issues.

Online students are required to have access to a reliable computer and internet. Computer/ software/internet issues will not be acceptable excuses for missed work. For problems with Canvas, contact the help desk at 321-433-7600, or submit an IT support ticket from MyEFSC.

Students are required to complete at least one graded academic assignment during the first two weeks of class in order to remain in the course.

Failure to complete any assignments in a given week will result in being marked absent. After three absences (three weeks with no grades), a student may be withdrawn for non-attendance.

Students who plagiarize or cheat in any way on a paper, assignment, or exam, will automatically fail the course and be referred to the provost’s office for possible expulsion from the college.

All additional EFSC policies will apply (see student handbook and syllabus addendum).

**Weekly Schedule**

Assignments will open every Monday morning at 8 a.m. and close the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Late work will not be accepted except under special circumstances. circumstances. Setting up a weekly schedule for yourself will help you meet deadlines.

A new Home Page will open each week with the following elements:

* A brief introduction to the topic of the week
* Relevant EFSC Learning Objectives
* A PowerPoint outline of the textbook chapter
* Graded assignments for that week
* Announcements

**InQuizitives**

These are low-stakes quizzes designed to help students learn the material. Keep working until you achieve 100%. InQuizitives will not be re-opened after the due date. The lowest grade, however, will not be counted in the final grade average.

**Discussions**

Post to assigned discussions by Wednesday, 11:59 p.m. Posts should be a minimum of ~200 words and follow all instructions. Try to use just your textbook, but share links to any outside sources used. Always put information into your own words.

Reply to at least one classmate by Sunday, 11:59 p.m. Acceptable replies will be a minimum of three full sentences, and add new and substantial information. “I agree” or “I disagree” or “thanks for your post” or “good job” will not be counted toward the required three sentences. Avoid cliches and vague affirmations. Do not reiterate what your classmate has already said. Do not reiterate what you have already said in your earlier post.

**Grading for Discussion Boards**

Post and reply by deadlines, meeting all criteria: 100%

Late post with a reply, meeting all other criteria: 70% Late post with no reply, or a reply but no post: 50%

The lowest discussion board grade will not be counted in the final grade average.

**Respect**

Students are required to be civil and mature with all class discussions and communications. Humor is welcome, but sarcasm is not. Name-calling and demeaning language will not be allowed. Inappropriate discussions will be removed and the student will receive a “0.” A second offense will result in a report to the Associate Provost and possible removal from the class.

Students will be expected to adhere to all Student Conduct codes.

**Exams**

There will be two exams in this course: the mid-term and the final exam. The mid-term will cover Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism. The final exam will cover Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Native American Religion.

Each exam will draw 50 questions from the textbook test bank. The questions will be multiple choice. Students will have 30 minutes to complete the exam. This is not a proctored exam, so the time limit is set to reduce incidents of cheating. Students are on their honor not to cheat. Many questions require applying knowledge rather than simply remembering terms.

**Plagiarism**

STUDENTS TAKE NOTE: Using information from Chegg or Course Hero or other “study sites” is plagiarism. Using another student’s paper or work is plagiarism. Getting help from a friend who writes a paper or discussion post on your behalf is plagiarism. Copying information from the internet or any other source without proper citation is plagiarism.

Plagiarism is perhaps the most serious academic infraction. All work submitted for this class must be your own original work. *This includes discussion boards as well as exams and papers.* If you are caught cheating in this class, you will be assigned a grade of “F” and will be reported to the Associate Provost. Your college account may be frozen until you have a meeting with the Associate Provost, a permanent note will be added to your academic file, and you may be expelled.

If you have any doubt about using a source or need any extra help with an assignment, ask me!

Plagiarism will not be excused for any reason.

**Writing Assignments**

Communications Skills Standard (formerly Gordon Rule): This course requires students to complete polished writing assignments at a college level. Two papers—the Religious Experience Paper and the Research Paper on Religion and Culture—will be used to measure student success.

**To pass this course: Students must turn in both papers on time, and earn a “C” or better on both papers. Papers must meet minimum criteria to be accepted for grading. *Students who fail to meet the CS standard will not be allowed to continue in the course and will be given an “F.”***

Minimum Criteria: MLA format: paragraph style, 12 font, double spaced, 1” margins, etc.

Meets minimum word requirement

Meets assignment instructions

Appropriate experience and/or topic

Appropriate thesis

Appropriate scholarly sources (5+)

Proper in-text citations (no plagiarism)

Original work (not copied or “borrowed” from another student or website)

**Religious Experience Paper 500 Word Minimum**

Due to COVID concerns, this assignment has been modified. You may visit a religious service of your choice or choose to view a service online. Please see complete instructions in Canvas.

Write a 500-750 word first-person paper about your experience.

The paper must be in MLA format.

**Comparison Paper on Religion and Culture 750 Word Minimum (not counting Title and Works Cited page)**

Choose a topic of interest and explore the impact of religion. Topic areas might be in the field of music, literature, movies, food, sexuality, fashion, politics, sports, medicine, environment, architecture, and a host of other possibilities.

Using sources from the EFSC databases, research and share what you’ve learned in a third person objective paper, *citing sources in the text of the paper.*

*Follow all detailed instructions in Canvas.*

**The Calendar**

**Week One Orientation**

Getting Started

Read and print the syllabus, noting all deadlines on your calendar. Get access to the textbook and e-material.

Chapter 1: Introduction: Why Religion Matters

Read Chapter 1 in your text, using the PowerPoint as an outline for the material.

Graded Assignments: *Discussion—Introduce Yourself!*

*InQuizitive: How to Use InQuizitive*

*InQuizitive: Chapter 1: Introduction*

*Read Canvas instructions for the Religious Experience Paper*

**Module One: Creation Myth Assignment**

Learning Objectives

1. Identify major elements found across religious traditions
2. Identify the sacramental, prophetic, and mystical orientations within religions
3. Use basic vocabulary to discuss major elements of religion
4. Explore the impact of global religious issues
5. Discuss various ways religions promote social justice and ethical values
6. Relate to diversity while maintaining personal identity
7. Encounter practitioners of various religions by methods such as DVDs, source materials, field trips, and speakers
8. Explore reasons for tolerance between people with different faiths

**Module Two**

**Hinduism**

Read “Part One: Religions of Release: India”

Read “Chapter Two: Hinduism: The Way of Devotion”

Learning Objectives for the Study of Hinduism (next 2 weeks) a. Outline the history of Hinduism

1. Identify the sacred texts including the Vedas, the Upanishads, and the Bhagavad Gita
2. Define key concepts including brahman, atman, karma, samsara, and moksha
3. Identify Hindu deities (at a minimum, the Trimurti and their shaktis)
4. Identify Hindu practices including yogas, dharma, puja, and karma

Graded Assignments: *InQuizitive: Chapter Two:Hinduism*

*Work on the Religious Experience Paper*

**Module Three**

Hinduism (continued)

Graded Assignments: *Discussion—Film on Hinduism*

***Religious Experience Paper is due Friday by midnight***

*Failure to turn in the paper will result in an “F” for the class*

Optional Ungraded Assignment: Hinduism Practice Quiz

**Module Four**

**Buddhism**

Read “Chapter Three: Buddhism: The Way of Awakening”

Learning Objectives for the Study of Buddhism (2 weeks) a. Outline the life of Siddhartha Gautama

1. Define key concepts including the Three Jewels, the Three Marks of Reality, the Four Noble Truths, and the Noble Eightfold Path
2. Identify distinctive practices in Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan Buddhism
3. Identify various buddhas and bodhisattvas

Graded Assignment: *InQuizitive: Chapter 3: Buddhism*

**Week Five**

**Buddhism (continued)**

Graded Assignment: *Discussion—Mindfulness Practice*

Read the instructions for the Research Paper

Optional Assignment: Buddhism Practice Quiz

**Week Six**

**Sikhism**

Read “Chapter Four: Sikhism: The Way of the Guru”

Learning Objectives for the Study of Additional Religious Traditions a. Outline the history of additional selected religious traditions

1. Examine core beliefs of selected religions
2. Identify practices of selected religions

Graded Assignment: *InQuizitive: Chapter 4: Sikhism*

Optional Assignment: Sikhism Practice Quiz

**Module Seven Zoroastrianism**

***Mid-term exam—Online***

Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism

50 questions, multiple choice 30 minute time-limit

Graded Assignments: *Take the mid-term exam*

*Discussion Board—Topic for Research Paper*

**Module Eight**

**Judaism**

Read “Religions of Repair: Middle East”

Read “Chapter Five: Judaism: The Way of Exile and Return”

Learning Objectives for the Study of Judaism (2 weeks) a. Outline history as set forth in the Tanakh

1. Explore issues in Judaism from the Babylonian Exile through the Inquisition and the

Crusades, to the Holocaust and present-day Israel

1. Identify other sacred texts such as Talmud and Kabbalah
2. Examine the tenets of monotheism in contrast to polytheism and henotheism
3. Differentiate between Orthodoxy, Conservative, and Reform Judaism
4. Identify Jewish practices and holy days

Graded Assignment: *InQuizitive: Chapter 5: Judaism*

**Module Nine**

Judaism (continued)

Graded Assignment: *Discussion—Israeli/Palestinian Conflict*

*Complete the research for the Research Paper*

Optional Assignment: Judaism Practice Quiz

**Module Eleven**

**Last day to withdraw with a “W”— JUNE 9th**

**Christianity**

Read “Chapter Six: Christianity: The Way of Salvation”

Learning Objectives for the Study of Christianity (2 weeks) a. Outline the life of Jesus

1. Describe the formation and general concepts of the Christian Scriptures
2. Trace the formation and transformation of Christianity through the "Great Schism" and the Reformation
3. Differentiate between Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism and Protestantism
4. Explore the key concepts as identified in one of the great creeds of the church
5. Identify Christian sacraments and holy days

Graded Assignment: *InQuizitive: Chapter 6: Christianity*

**Module Twelve**

Christianity (continued)

Graded Assignment: *Discussion—Religion and Political Power*

Optional Assignment: Christianity Practice Quiz

**Module Thirteen**

**Islam**

Read “Chapter Seven: Islam: The Way of Submission”

Learning Objectives for the Study of Islam (2 weeks) a. Outline the life of Muhammad

1. Differentiate between Shia, Sunni, and Sufi
2. Explore the Golden Age of Islam
3. Define the key concepts found in the Five Pillars and the Six Articles of Faith
4. Identify practices according to the Five Pillars
5. Explore the Qur'an

Graded Assignment: *InQuizitive: Chapter 7: Islam*

**Module Fourteen**

Islam (continued)

Graded Assignment: *Discussion Board—Film on Islam*

Optional Assignment: Islam Practice Quiz

**Module Fifteen**

**Chinese Religions: Confucianism and Daoism**

Learning Objectives for the Study of Additional Religious Traditions

a. Outline the history of additional selected religious traditions

1. Examine core beliefs of selected religions
2. Identify practices of selected religions

Graded Assignments: *InQuizitive for Confucianism and Daoism*

*Discussion: Chinese Religions*

**Module Sixteen**

**Navajo**

Learning Objectives for the Study of Native American Religious Traditions:

a. Outline the history of additional selected religious traditions

1. Examine core beliefs of selected religions
2. Identify practices of selected religions

Graded Assignments: *InQuizitive for the Navajo*

*Discussion: Navajo Religions*

***Final Exam—Online******Friday, June 24th***

*Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Confucianism, Daoism, and Navaho*

*50 questions, multiple choice*

*30 minute time-limit*

All dates and assignments in this syllabus are **subject to change.** Keep up with Canvas messages and the Home Pages for additional information.

Syllabus Addendum

Please click on the links below for important student information:

* [Academic and Administrative Appeal Process](http://www.easternflorida.edu/student-life/student-handbook/student-appeals.cfm)
* [Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 (Subpart E)](http://www.easternflorida.edu/academics/academic-support/sail/differences-hs-college.cfm)
* [Computer Lab Usage](http://www.easternflorida.edu/administration-departments/it/computer-labs.cfm)
* [**COVID-19 Syllabus Statement**](https://www.easternflorida.edu/documents/covid19-syllabus-statement.pdf)
* [**EFSCares Student Counseling**](http://www.easternflorida.edu/student-life/counseling-efscares/)
* EFSC [Grading/Incomplete Policy](http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/registrars-office/grading-policies/)
* EFSC [Proctored Exam Process](http://www.easternflorida.edu/academics/elearning/testing-proctored-exams.cfm)
* EFSC Rules on [Class Participation and Religious Observances](http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/registrars-office/attendance.cfm)
* [FERPA](http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/registrars-office/ferpa-privacy-act-info/student-ferpa-info.cfm)
* [Financial Aid and Scholarships](http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships/)
* [Green Dot Initiative (EFSC Bystander Training Program to prevent power-based personal violence)](http://www.easternflorida.edu/student-life/green-dot/)
* [Health, Safety, and Security](http://www.easternflorida.edu/student-life/student-handbook/health-safety.cfm)
* [Sexual Misconduct and Title IX](http://www.easternflorida.edu/our-campuses/campus-security/titleix-sexual-misconduct/)
* [Standards of Academic Progress](http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/registrars-office/academic-standing.cfm)
* [Student Access for Improved Learning](http://www.easternflorida.edu/academics/academic-support/sail/)