

R102

Religions of Western World

Fall 2016

CRN: 26045
Day and Time: TR 2:30pm to 3:50pm
Location: IA-223
Credits: 3 credit hours
Instructor: Brian Jeanseau
E-mail: brian.jeanseau@linnbenton.edu
Office Hours: IA 220 - Email to schedule an appointment
(Usually right before or right after class)

WELCOME

I'm glad you chose to take this course. I sincerely hope you find it enlightening and challenging. Yes there is work involved, but I think you're going to find it fun as well. Our world is "shrinking" as we do more business, politics, and war on a global scale. One of the most important ways to successfully navigate this world is to understand each cultures' belief systems. This type of understanding helps promote peace rather than conflict. I'm here to help and guide you in the process. Welcome!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Investigates religion in the Western World. Includes discussion of how the outward forms of religious expression integrate with other cultural traditions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Fisher, Mary Pat. *Living Religions* (8th Edition). 2010. Prentice Hall. ISBN: 978-0205835850

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate an awareness of the varieties of religious expression and the dynamic nature of religious traditions.
2. Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the core tenants, practices, and institutions of Western religious traditions within their historical and contemporary contexts.
3. Analyze the interaction of religious traditions with political, economic, social, and cultural institutions, groups, and individuals.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Recommended: College level reading and writing skills.

FINAL GRADES

Final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F 59% and below

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance and Participation	200	20%
Documentary Journal	200	20%
Reflection Essay	150	15%
Religious Service Visit.	150	15%
Quizzes (5).	100	10%
Final Exam.	200	20%
TOTAL		1,000

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

- Service Visit Presentations: Due dates are assigned individually
- Tues 10/27: Documentary Journal (1st Half)
- Thurs 12/1: Documentary Journal (2nd Half)
- Thurs 12/1: Reflection Essay
- Tues 12/6: Final Exam

STUDENT CONDUCT

There will be no tolerance for jokes or slurs regarding race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or physical or mental abilities. It is crucial to maintain a respectful environment while exploring different religious traditions and beliefs. Any attempt to undermine this environment will not be tolerated, and the student will be removed from the class. To talk and learn together, people must feel free to share and explore ideas in a safe, open environment. If I interpret your work as being disrespectful or bordering on hate speech, your work will earn zero credit. Disagreement is acceptable and even encouraged, but it must be done in an intelligent, considerate, respectful, and reasoned manner.

TECHNOLOGY-FREE ZONE

Our classroom will be a technology-free zone. You are encouraged to use technology outside of the classroom for research and for study. However, in the classroom we want to engage the texts and each other in discussion. Technology of any sort (laptops, phones, texting, iPods, iPads, etc.) will not be allowed in this classroom.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is an indispensable value as students acquire knowledge and develop skills in college. Students are expected to practice academic honesty by not cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting their coursework in any way. Students are ultimately responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty whether such incidences are *intentional or unintentional*. Consequences for cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty may include receiving a score of zero on an individual assignment or failing the class.

ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS

Attendance and Participation

- To receive full credit for each class, students must arrive on time, engage in discussions, complete in-class assignments, follow instructions, etc.
- I generally don't excuse absences (except for school sports or possibly severe medical emergencies). If you miss more than two classes in a row, please email me (this lets me know you don't want to be administratively dropped from the class).
- I do not post my lectures or power points online.
- Check your Linn-Benton email regularly. This is my only way of communicating important information with you outside of the classroom.
- Attendance and participation affects the successful completion of all learning outcomes.

Reading Assignments

- Reading assignments are *due at the beginning of each class*. Come to class ready to discuss and engage the material.
- There will be large and small group discussions, in-class writings, and quizzes.
- See learning outcome two.

Written Assignments

- There is a reflection paper and a documentary journal. The details for each assignment will be given in class.
- All written assignments are *due as Word documents in Moodle by 11:55pm* on the due date. (PDF format is acceptable, if you are having trouble with Word. Links to websites, Google docs, etc. are not acceptable.) Double check your Moodle submission to make sure your submission worked.
- Late submissions are acceptable; however, there will be a 10% grade reduction for each day these assignments are late.
- Students are responsible for their work. "Back up" your computer files.
- See learning outcome four.

Religious Service Visit Presentations

- You and a partner will visit a different religious tradition which you have never experienced before.
- Each group will present their findings to the class. Presentations should be roughly 10 minutes in length. Further details will be given in class.
- See learning outcome one.

Examinations and Quizzes

- Final Examinations will be taken on the day scheduled, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.
- Quizzes must be taken on the date assigned and cannot be made up (except for school sports or possibly severe medical emergencies).
- All tests and quizzes are "open note." You may bring any of your own original handwritten notes (no printed materials, photocopies of notes, books, or electronic devices will be allowed).
- Tests and quizzes affect the successful completion of all learning outcomes.

Extra Credit

- I do not give extra credit assignments. Keep up on all your assignments and reading.

FALL TERM 2016 SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Description
1	Tues 9/27	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus • What is religion and why study it? • Defining the West
	Thurs 9/29	Zoroastrianism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polytheism vs. Monotheism • Sacrifice • <i>Due: Reading 235-238</i>
2	Tues 10/4	Judaism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation Myths • Flood Narratives • Creativity Theology • <i>Due: Reading 239-251</i>
	Thurs 10/6	Judaism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historicity • Archaeology • Quiz 1 • <i>Due: Reading 251-262</i>
3	Tues 10/11	Judaism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People of the Temple • People of the Book • Textual History • <i>Due: Reading 262-273</i>
	Thurs 10/13	Judaism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernity • Persecution and Rebirth • <i>Due: Reading 273-282</i>
4	Tues 10/18	Judaism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Due: Reading 282-294</i> • <i>Due: Judaism Presentations</i>
	Thurs 10/20	Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life of Christ • Introduction to the Gospels • Quiz 2 • <i>Due: Reading 298-316</i>
5	Tues 10/25	Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Reliability? • Resurrection • <i>Due: Reading 316-331</i>
	Thurs 10/27	Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textual History • Textual Criticism • <i>Due: Reading 331-346</i> • <i>Due: Documentary Journal (First Half)</i>

Week	Date	Description
6	Tues 11/1	Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church History • Ethiopian Orthodox Church • Women in Church Leadership • <i>Due: Reading 346-360</i>
	Thurs 11/3	Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3 • <i>Due: Reading 360-376</i> • <i>Due: Christianity Presentations</i>
7	Tues 11/8	Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muhammad • The Qur'an • <i>Due: Reading 381-391</i>
	Thurs 11/10	Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Five Pillars • Sunni vs. Shi'a • Expansion • <i>Due: Reading 391-404</i>
8	Tues 11/15	Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernity • Dome of the Rock • Women of Islam • <i>Due: Reading 404-413</i>
	Thurs 11/17	Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremism • The Syrian Refugee Crisis • Quiz 4 • <i>Due: Reading 413-424</i>
9	Tues 11/22	Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Due: Reading 424-436</i> • <i>Due: Islam Presentations</i>
	Thurs 11/24	Thanksgiving! (No Class)
10	Tues 11/29	Hybrids, Universalism, Interfaith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rastafari • Baha'i • <i>Due: Reading 480-486, 500-507, 510-514</i>
	Thurs 12/1	Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 5 • <i>Due: Documentary Journal (Second Half)</i> • <i>Due: End of Term Reflection Essay</i>
11	Tues 12/6	Final Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:30pm to 6:20pm

COLLEGE POLICIES

Disability Services: Students who may need accommodations due to documented disabilities, who have medical information which the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in an emergency, should speak with the instructor during the first week of class. If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 541-917-4789.

Institutional Withdrawal / Waitlist Policy: Students who do not attend class during the first week may be dropped from the course in order to allow for wait-listed student enrollment. If you are on the waitlist and wish to take the course, you must attend class the first week and e-mail me your intent to take the course.

Drop Policy: Students are responsible for knowing the last day to drop the course for a full refund. Also, be aware of the last day to officially withdraw from this course for transcripts to show a "W."

Incomplete Grades: You may be eligible for an "Incomplete" grade if you have finished 80% of the class work. Should you receive an "Incomplete," all course work must be finished by the agreed upon date in the contract. Please contact the instructor prior to term's end with appropriate documentation for requesting an "Incomplete."