

# R202

## Intro to Religious Studies

### Winter 2022

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>CRN:</b>          | 32895   |
| <b>Day and Time:</b> | Tues/Thurs 10am – 11:20am   |
| <b>Location:</b>     | North Santiam Hall 206  |
| <b>Credits:</b>      | 3 Credit Hours  |
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Brian Jeanseau  |
| <b>E-mail:</b>       | Brian.Jeanseau@linnbenton.edu   |
| <b>Help Hours:</b>   | Contact me for an appointment (usually right after class is best)<br>My office is SSH-208 |

#### 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 best ways to navigate this world is by understanding each cultures' belief systems. This type of understanding helps promote tolerance and peace rather than conflict. I'm here to help and guide you in the process. Welcome!

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Explores the nature of religion as experienced historically throughout the world. Examines the nature of religious experience with the divine and the relationship between science and religion. Discusses the roles of language, myths, and symbols in religion.

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Kessler, Gary E. *Studying Religions* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). 2008. McGraw-Hill.

ISBN: 978-0-07-338659-1. Available as either an E-Book OR used (print) editions might also still be available in the bookstore.

Fisher, Mary Pat. *Living Religions* (10<sup>th</sup> Edition). 2017. Prentice Hall.

ISBN: 978-0-13-416915-6. Included as E-book with class tuition. Used (print) editions might also still be available in the bookstore.

#### 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. Describe a variety of methodological approaches to the study of religion (e.g. anthropological, philosophical, sociological, feminist, postcolonial).
3. Discuss and examine the diverse debates and issues related to the study of religion.
4. Practice reflexivity, identifying and critically examining the source and content of one's own cultural perspectives and world-views.

## 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 pts         | 20%        |
| Reading Journal . . . . .              | 200 pts         | 20%        |
| Reflection Essay . . . . .             | 150 pts         | 15%        |
| Religious Service Visit . . . . .      | 150 pts         | 15%        |
| Quizzes (5) . . . . .                  | 100 pts         | 10%        |
| Final Exam . . . . .                   | <u>200 pts</u>  | <u>20%</u> |
|  | TOTAL 1,000 pts | 100%       |

## IMPORTANT DUE DATES

- 2/4: Documentary Journal (1<sup>st</sup> Half)
- 2/22: Religious Service Visit Presentation
- 3/4: Documentary Journal (2<sup>nd</sup> Half)
- 3/11: Reflection Essay
- 3/15: Final Exam

## STUDENT CONDUCT

There will be no tolerance for jokes or slurs regarding race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical/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 and 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 is a technology-free zone. You are encouraged to use technology outside of the classroom for research and 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. If you are unsure of any of this, please come talk to me!

## ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS

### *Attendance and Participation*

- To receive full credit for each class, students must arrive on time, engage in small and large group discussions, complete in-class writing assignments, follow instructions, not leave early, etc.
- I don't excuse absences (except for required school sports/performances or COVID quarantine situations).
- 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/reminders/changes with you outside of the classroom.
- Attendance and participation affects the completion of all Learning Outcomes.

### *Reading Assignments*

- Reading assignments may or may not line up with the in-class lectures.
- However, they are *due by the Tuesday of the next week (for Tuesday quizzes)*.
- Come to class ready to discuss the materials and pass all the quizzes. (Quizzes are based on both the readings and lectures.)
- See Learning Outcome Two.

### *Written Assignments*

- There is a reflection essay and a reading journal. The details for each assignment will be given in class.
- Assignments are due as Word documents in Moodle by 11:59pm on the due date.
- (PDF format is acceptable, if you are having trouble with Word. Links to websites, Google docs, etc. are not acceptable.)
- Late submissions are acceptable; however, there will be a 10% grade reduction for each day these assignments are late.
- Double check your Moodle submission to make sure your submission worked. You are solely responsible for the proper submission of all papers; I do not make exceptions for submissions that "didn't work."
- You are responsible for your own work. "Back up" your computer files.
- See Learning Outcome Four.

### *Religious Service Visit Presentations*

- You and your group will experience a religious service which is new to you.
- Each group will present their findings to the class. Presentations should be roughly 15 minutes in length. Further details will be given in class.
- See Learning Outcome One.

### *Examinations and Quizzes*

- Quizzes must be taken on the date assigned and *cannot* be made up (except for required school sports/performances or COVID quarantine situations).
- Final Examinations will be taken on the day scheduled, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.
- All tests and quizzes are "open note." You may bring any of your own, original handwritten notes (no printed materials, handouts, photocopies of another student's notes, books, or electronic devices will be allowed).
- Tests and quizzes affect the successful completion of all Learning Outcomes.

### *Extra Credit*

- I do not typically give extra credit or allow make-up assignments. Don't fall behind!

WINTER TERM 2022 SCHEDULE

| Week | Dates            | Description   |
|------|------------------|---|
| 1    | 1/4<br><br>1/6   | <b>Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus</li> <li>• What is religion and why study it?</li> <li>• Concepts to consider when studying religion</li> <li>• Getting to know each other</li> <li>• Insider vs. Outsider perspectives</li> <li>• Global perspectives</li> <li>• <i>Read Fisher 1.1-19</i></li> </ul>   |
| 2    | 1/11<br><br>1/13 | <b>Sacred Geography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tuesday Quiz #1</i></li> <li>• Geography, language, culture</li> <li>• Indigenous vs. Modern</li> <li>• The Axial Age</li> <li>• Hybrid Models (Hindu/Shinto)</li> </ul> <b>Origin Theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Theories</li> <li>• A Unified Theory of Religions</li> <li>• The Beginning of Religious Studies</li> <li>• Sacrifice and Divination</li> <li>• <i>Read Fisher 2.33-57</i></li> </ul> |
| 3    | 1/18<br><br>1/20 | <b>Anthropology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Problem and Solution</li> <li>• Indigenous Spirituality (Native American)</li> </ul> <b>Big History &amp; Creation Stories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation Myths (Ancient Babylonian)</li> <li>• Flood Narratives (Ancient Sumerians)</li> <li>• Nationalistic Narratives (Ethiopian Orthodox)</li> <li>• <i>Read Kessler 3.45-58</i></li> </ul>   |
| 4    | 1/25<br><br>1/27 | <b>Archaeology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tuesday Quiz #2</i></li> <li>• Historicity (Judaism)</li> </ul> <b>Linguistics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aryan Migration Theory</li> <li>• Persian and Sanskrit (Hinduism)</li> <li>• <i>Read Kessler 7.127-137 and 7.143</i></li> </ul>  |
| 5    | 2/1<br><br>2/3   | <b>Sacred Texts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Quran (Islam)</li> <li>• Problems with exegesis and hermeneutics</li> </ul> <b>Textual Criticism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Novum Testamentum Graece (Christianity)</li> <li>• <i>Reading Journal (First Half) due 2/4</i></li> </ul>  |

|    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 6  | 2/8<br><br>2/10  | <b>Sociology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tuesday Quiz #3</i></li> <li>• The Hijab (Islam)</li> <li>• Gender roles</li> <li>• LGBTQ</li> <li>• <i>Fisher 1.25-26, 3.106-108, 8.294-298, 9.365-368</i></li> </ul>  |
| 7  | 2/15<br><br>2/17 | <b>Philosophy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Overlap with Religion (Confucianism)</li> <li>• Theodicy (Christianity OR Buddhism)</li> </ul> <b>Psychology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stages of Development (Hinduism)</li> <li>• The Need for God and Ritual (Personality Types)</li> <li>• <i>Read Kessler 8.159-171</i></li> </ul> |
| 8  | 2/22<br><br>2/24 | <b>Field Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Religious Service Visit Presentations due 2/22</i></li> <li>• <i>Tuesday Quiz #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Read Kessler 6.103-114</i></li> </ul>   |
| 9  | 3/1<br><br>3/3   | <b>Science vs. Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hybrid Theories</li> <li>• The Middles Ages (Islam)</li> <li>• Origins of Fundamentalism</li> <li>• Science in Religion (Taoism)</li> <li>• <i>Read Fisher 1.19-25, 13.456-466</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading Journal (Second Half) due 3/4</i></li> </ul>   |
| 10 | 3/8<br><br>3/10  | <b>Politics and Governance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tuesday Quiz #5</i></li> <li>• Universalism (Baha'i)</li> </ul> <b>Conclusions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memory Lane</li> <li>• Religious Myths</li> <li>• Religious Models</li> <li>• <i>End of Term Reflection Essay due 3/11</i></li> </ul>                             |
| 11 | 3/15             | <b>Final Exam</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30am to 11:30am (same room)</li> </ul>  |

## COLLEGE POLICIES

COVID-19 Requirements: LBCC has established rules and policies to make the return to the classroom as safe as possible. To participate in this class, all students must comply:

- MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES IN CLASSROOM. Wear a mask or face covering indoors at all times. Your mask or face covering must be properly worn (fully covering nose and mouth and tight-fitting). Mesh masks, face shields, or face covering that incorporates a valve designed to facilitate easy exhalation are not acceptable.
- If you have a medical condition or a disability that prevents you from wearing a mask or cloth face covering, you must obtain an accommodation from CFAR (Center for Accessibility Resources) to be exempt from this requirement.
- State guidelines do not limit class size. Physical distancing accommodations can be made upon request and cleaning supplies are also available for personal use.
- FREE TESTING for Covid-19 will be available for students and employees at our Albany Main Campus (located at the Campus Bookstore's book-buy-back window).

Administrative Drop: Students who do not attend class during the first week will be automatically dropped by the instructor from the course. This is usually to make room for students on the wait list (but will be done regardless of a waitlist). If you missed class in the first week due to an emergency, contact your instructor as soon as possible to explain your situation and lessen the chance of being dropped.

Waitlist Policy: If you are on the waitlist and wish to take the course, you must attend class the first week and let the instructor know your intention to take the class.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy: Students are responsible for knowing the last day to “Drop” the course for a full refund (usually right after the first week). Also, if you are struggling in the class and not sure you will be able to pass it, be aware of the last day to officially “Withdraw” from the course so that only a “W” shows on your transcripts (usually in week three). A “W” doesn’t affect your GPA like an “F” does. See the academic calendar for these dates <https://ems.linnbenton.edu/MasterCalendar/>.

Incomplete Grades: If something keeps you from successfully finishing the course towards the end of the term, you may be eligible for an “Incomplete” grade. This situation gives a student additional time to complete the remaining work. You can qualify for an Incomplete grade, if you have finished 80% of the class work and you have a good academic standing in the class. 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 the term’s end with appropriate documentation for requesting an “Incomplete.”

Accessibility Resources: Students who may need accommodations due to documented disabilities, or 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 believe you may need accommodations, but are not yet registered with CFAR, please go to <http://linnbenton.edu/cfar> for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

Public Safety: If you observe a suspicious person or activity, contact Public Safety immediately for quick response at (541) 917-4440 (main office) or (541) 926-6855 (Officer on duty). If an emergency, dial 911 first.

Reporting Concerns: If you need to report an accident, injury, misconduct, unlawful harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or complaint, go to [linnbenton.edu/report-it](http://linnbenton.edu/report-it).