



## **WORLD RELIGIONS - RELG 103-H12**

Fall 2017 TTh 12:15 - 1:30 EHFA 246

Instructor: Dr. Ron Green Office: AOC2 332 Phone: 349-2782

Office hours in AOC2 332: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30-9:15 and 10:30-12:05

Class website: [http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/World\\_Religions.html](http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/World_Religions.html)

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in our regular classroom.

### **Course Description:**

This class introduces students to the academic study of religion and surveys the global range of religious traditions. It examines various worldwide patterns of religious beliefs and practices, and investigates particular traditions, communities, and their respective histories and development. The course also investigates the role of religion in the modern world.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Students will gain an overview of theory and practices of some of the most prevalent of these traditions.
- You will have opportunities to think about varied conceptions of the ultimate, human nature, the *Self*, and spiritual transformation.
- You will become aware of religions in the news and come to understand some of the historical, cultural, economic and political developments relevant to religions past, present and future.

**Student learning outcomes:** On completion of this course, students will have

1. demonstrated knowledge of the beliefs, practices, narratives and important persons associated with major religious traditions of the world.
2. expressed themselves on topical issues concerning World Religions.
3. fostered appreciation of global diversity through understanding how religions contribute to and are affected by individual and collective behaviors.
4. gained knowledge of the cultures, languages and social structures of other countries of the world.

### **Academic Integrity & Plagiarism Statement:**

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. Any such violations will be dealt with in strict accordance to Coastal Carolina University guidelines. The student will be responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with this policy which is located in the CCU Student Handbook under the Code of Student Conduct Section.

### **Attendance:**

Regular class attendance will be expected throughout the semester. If at any point a student misses over 25% of class meetings s/he will receive an F as their final grade. This includes both excused and unexcused absences from class. If there are any more questions pertaining to the attendance policy please review the Student's Handbook.

## Required texts:

1. Prabhavanand (trans). *The Upanishads, Breath of the Eternal*. NY: Signet, 2002. ISBN: 0451528484.
2. Wallis, Glenn (trans). *The Dhammapada, Verses on the Way*. Modern Library, 2007. ISBN: 0812977270.
3. Lao Tsu. Lau, D.C. (trans). *Tao Te Ching*. Penguin Classics; Reprint 1964. ISBN: 014044131X.
4. Neihardt, John G. *Black Elk Speaks*. <http://stuff.samassaveneessa.info/docs/BlackElkSpeaks.pdf>

## Grading:

1. There will be **four reading check-ups**, one on each of the assigned readings. These will be given at the beginning of class on the day the readings are due (see attached calendar). They will consist of three to five short-answer questions about the reading assignments. The sum of the grades averaged for these four reading check-ups is worth 15% of the final grade for the course. Students may not make-up missed reading check-ups.

Note: Buy all of the books for this course as soon as possible and bring the appropriate book to class on the day we are discussing it.

2. There will be **three in-class tests**, each worth 15% of the final grade. There will be no make-up tests.

3. There is a **non-cumulative Final Exam** worth 15% of the final grade for the class.

4. In addition to the above requirements for the non-Honors World Religions course, Honors students are required to write a 5-page (approximately 1500-word) **term paper** that further explores an issue covered in class. The topic of this paper must be approved by the instructor by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The paper is worth 25% of the final grade for the course. It is due by the beginning of class on the last day of classes for the term. This academic-style essay must be double-spaced in 12-point type, in a font such as Times New Roman or Courier New. Chicago or MLA styles are acceptable. The paper must use and properly cite at least two reputable academic sources. The instructor and the CCU Writing Center can help if needed. The paper is due at the beginning of class (12:15 on the last day of classes, Dec. 5, 2017).

**Summary of term paper:** 5-page research paper  
Topic: further explore an issue covered in class  
Requirement: use and cite two reputable academic sources  
Topic must be approved by October 31  
**Due date: beginning of class December 5.**

<i>Summary of grading:</i> Average of Reading Check-ups	=	15%
Test 1	=	15%
Test 2	=	15%
Test 3	=	15%
Final Exam	=	15%
Term paper	=	25%

Based on the above, students will earn a letter grade for the term according to the following system:

A = 91 - 100%	C = 71 - 77%
B+ = 88 - 90%	D+ = 68 - 70%
B = 81 - 87%	D = 61 - 67%
C+ = 78 - 80%	F = below 61%

# World Religions - RELG 103

Schedule of Classes - Calendar

August						
	21	22 About the course	23	24 HINDUISM  Developments	25	26
27	28	29  HINDUISM  Ancient India and the <i>Vedas</i>	30	31 HINDUISM  Developments  *Reading Check-up <i>Upanishads</i> : Intro; Katha Upanishad.		

September					1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY	5 BUDDHISM  Life of the Buddha	6	7 BUDDHISM  Life of the Buddha	8	9
10	11	12 BUDDHISM  Four Nobel Truths & Eightfold Path	13	*14 BUDDHISM  *Reading Check-up <i>Dhammapada</i> 3-17, 40-42, read chapter notes.	15	16
17	18	*19 *Quiz 1:  HINDUISM and BUDDHISM	20	21 NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY  General Features	22	23
24	25	*26 NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY  *Reading Check-up <i>Black Elk Speaks</i> : 1-36; 172-190.	27	28 SHINTŌ  Origins Creation myths	29	30

October						
1	2	3 SHINTŌ film: <i>Princess Mononoke</i>	4	5 SHINTŌ film: <i>Princess Mononoke</i>	6	7
8	9	10 SHINTŌ Discussion and Review	11	*12 *Quiz 2: NATIVE AMER. and SHINTŌ	13	14
15	16	17 CHINESE RELIGIONS Ancient sites	18	19 CHINESE RELIGIONS	20	21
22	23	*24 DAOISM *Reading Check-up <i>Tao Te Ching</i> : Chapters 1-5	25	26 CONFUCIANISM	27	28
29	30	31 CHINESE MEDICINE Theories and practices REVIEW FOR QUIZ 3				

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in our regular classroom.**

November			1	*2	3	4
				*Quiz 3: CHINESE RELIGIONS		
5	6	7 JUDAISM Origins	8	9 JUDAISM Developments	10	11
12	13	14 CHRISTIANITY Origins	15	16 CHRISTIANITY Developments	17	18
Thanksgiving Break						
26	27	28 ISLAM Origins	29	30 ISLAM Developments		

December					1	2
3	4	5 REVIEW FOR FINAL	6	7 STUDY DAY		