

World Religions

PHIL 3100-001

UCCS—Fall 2014

Tuesdays 1:40 – 4:20 pm., rm. COB 114

Instructor: Jeff Scholes

Office: COB 4057

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00-1:30 pm; Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm

[email me to set up an appointment to guarantee a meeting](#)

Phone: 255-4090

E-mail: jscholes@uccs.edu

Course Description

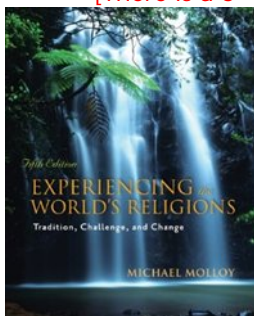
This course will introduce the student to the major religions of the world, including indigenous and minority religions. This course does not assume that the descriptions of religions offered in the book or in the lectures in any way capture the religious experiences of practitioners or the full religion itself. Nor does it take for granted that an agreed upon definition of “religion” actually exists that can be applied to each of the world religions. However, a survey course like this is intended to be a wonderful introduction into the major religious traditions and the cultural context in which they function. I will utilize a variety of learning approaches including lectures, readings, video, critical essays, and group discussion.

The primary focus of the course is twofold. The basics of each religion that we discuss will be the focus of the introductory treatment. However, I will also be emphasizing issues such as modernization, colonialism, cultural accommodation, etc. that have affected all religions as they attempt to cope with historical and political changes. Hopefully, this course will be approached with an open mind and some new insights will result.

Required Text

Experiencing the World's Religions, Michael Molloy, 5th edition

[\[There is a 6th edition, but make sure you have the 5th edition\]](#)



Course Requirements

- Group assignments and presentation [GAP]
 - After we finish a section (Judaism, part I, for example) we will break up into groups and work on discussion questions I provide.
 - From your group's discussion, one member of the group (in collaboration with the other members of the group) will answer the questions in a blue book that your group will keep

- throughout the semester.
- I will provide the blue book and you will turn this blue book in at the end of each class to be graded.
- In addition, one group per discussion will present their findings to the class. Groups will not know in advance when they will present. Each group will only go once, but must be prepared not only to present answers to the questions posed fully, but also be able to field questions from the class.
- I will grade both the assignment and presentation together as one lump grade. Basically if the questions are answered thoughtfully and thoroughly, your group will do fine for the grade.
- Essays
 - There will be **three** essays written
 - Each will be 3-4 pages (**3 pages minimum**—if it goes over 4 pages, I won't necessarily count off for this)
 - (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins)
 - The essay will be **printed out and turned in by hand** at the end of the class on which it is due
 - You must cite Molloy at least twice in each paper
 - Use parenthetical citations, for ex.: ". . . belief in God" (Molloy, 46).
 - If you cite from outside our required text, then you must footnote this source
 - Use Chicago Style for footnotes:
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
 - Use an internet source ONLY if necessary.
 - Each essay will be an answer to a question that I ask and the question will be posted under Course Content on Bb.
- Place of Worship Group Project
 - Each of you will be involved with a group presentation at the end of the semester.
 - I will pass around a sign-up sheet during our second session that allows you to sign up to visit a place of worship of a religion other than your own.
 - Later, I will give your group specific instructions on what I expect out of this presentation.
- Final Place of Worship Paper
 - This final paper will be a theoretical reflection on the place of worship that you attended
 - Instructions for this paper will be given under Course Content on Bb
 - 6-7 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins
 - Due date is listed in the schedule below.
- All papers will be graded according to my grading rubric that is on the Course Content page of our course Blackboard page.
- Note: All assignments turned into Bb run through the **SafeAssign** program that checked your paper against EVERYTHING on the internet and every other paper turned into Bb for ALL schools participating in Bb—including UCCS, and including your classmates' papers turned in for this class as well.
- Extra Credit
 - I run a Center here on campus and we have several events this spring that, if you attend, you will receive extra credit.
 - I will let you know when the events are taking place

- For ONE event that you attend (I'll take roll), I will raise your lowest essay (1, 2, or 3) half a letter grade.
 - Note that you are encouraged to attend more than one, but you will only get extra credit once.
- Attendance
 - Because we meet only 15 times, it is imperative that you attend each session.
 - Yet I understand that issues come up that may force you to miss class. Hence you may miss one class unexcused with no penalty.
 - Missing more than one class with an unexcused absence, however, will result in the lowering of your final grade by a half a letter grade per class missed after one. Or a B becomes a B- for 2 unexcused absences, a C+ for 3 unexcused absences. Only absences accompanied by a medical note or substantiated family emergency are excused, all others are considered unexcused.
 - If you are late and miss the role sheet, please notify me of your presence at the break, and I will mark you tardy. Two tardies constitute one full absence.
 - You must stay for the whole class. This means you must be on time and not leave early. I pass around a role sheet at the beginning and sometimes when we return from break to check this.
 - Work does NOT constitute an excused absence

Additional notes

- Missed assignments: If you cannot turn in a paper on time, you need to make arrangements BEFORE the assignment is due or the exam is taken by emailing me at least 1 day prior to the due date or exam time.
 - If you have not made arrangements, a medical note is needed to explain your absence post facto. If you miss for an excused reason, you must make up the exam by the following Sunday. If an exam is missed for an unexcused reason, you will receive a zero for the exam.
- For each day that a paper is late, you will lose 10% off of the grade for the paper. If the paper is due on Bb at 12:30 and you turn it in at 12:31 pm, it is one day late. If you turn it in the next day (at 12:01 am) it is two days late.
- If you must use a laptop to take notes in class, I ask that you sit on the front two rows in class.
- Cell phones must be on silent or shut off during class. If you text during class, you will be asked to leave class for the duration and points will be deducted from your Class Participation grade.
- Plagiarism (or using someone else as a source for your own material without giving credit to that other source) will receive either a failing grade on the assignment or for the class (I will use discretion on a case-by-case basis)

Grade Breakdown

Essay #1:	15%
Essay #2:	20%
Essay #3:	25%
Final Place of Worship paper:	25%
Place of Worship presentation:	10%
Group Assignment and Presentation:	5%

Schedule

Date	Reading and Writing Assignment	Class Activity
8/26	No reading	Syllabus overview and introductory remarks
9/2	No class—Labor Day Holiday	
9/9	Ch. 1--Introduction [pp. 3-29]	Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADcWn5ZgLOI http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTY-9FY13kw&feature=related
9/16	Ch. 2--Indigenous Religions [35-69]	Video: The Trees Have a Mother
9/23	Lecture—Dr. Sarah Pessin	
9/30	Ch. 3--Hinduism [75-119] Essay #1 due in paper form BEFORE class starts	Guest speaker: Aditi Mitra
10/7	Ch. 4—Buddhism [125-139]	Video: interview with Pema Chodron http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITfx-fm_ZzU&feature=related http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6A6We4Fb5w&feature=related Guest speaker: Andrew Palmer
10/14	Ch. 8—Judaism [289-311]	Video: A History of God Guest speaker: Robyn Ronen
10/21	Ch. 9—Christianity, part 1 [343-369] Essay #2 due in Blackboard Drop box BEFORE class starts	Video: From Jesus to Christ
10/28	Ch. 9—Christianity, part 2 [383-390]	Guest speaker: Fr. Anthony Karbo
11/4	Ch. 10—Islam, part 1 [423-443]	Video: Empire of Islam
11/11	Ch. 10—Islam, part 2 [462-484]	Guest speaker: Arshad Yousufi
11/18	Ch. 11—Alternative Paths [489-521] Essay #3 due in Blackboard Drop box BEFORE class starts	Video: The Mormons
11/25	No class	
12/2	No reading	Place of Worship presentations
12/9	No reading	Place of Worship presentations
12/16	Final Paper due in Bb Drop box at 11:59 pm	

Evaluation guidelines for all written assignments

Grade	Description	Content	Style
A 95-100	Excellent work	Assignment goes above and beyond completion according to instructions; shows both sophisticated understanding of course materials and original critical thought; professor learns something from the student	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and citations are perfect or nearly perfect
A- 90-94 B+ 87-89	Strong work	Assignment shows not only solid understanding of materials but also some original thought and critical engagement	Only minor mistakes present in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and citations
B 84-86 B- 80-83 C+ 77-79	Acceptable work	Assignment is completed according to instructions but not much more; shows some understanding of materials but little individual thought/engagement	Sloppy; grammar, spelling, punctuation, and citations may be faulty or poor
C 74-76 C- 70-73 D+ 67-69 D 64-66	Poor work	Assignment not completed according to instructions and/or shows lack of reading, thought, and/or understanding of materials	Grammar, spelling, punctuation and citations are poor
D- 60-63 F 59>	Unacceptable work	No evidence of reading/thinking at all; student shows blatant disregard for assignment apart from turning it in (or paper was 4 days late or more)	Grammar, spelling, punctuation and citations are poor or non-existent
0	Ungraded	Student cheated/plagiarized or assignment was not turned in at all.	

Note: I round up to the nearest tenth of a percent on your FINAL GRADE. If you finish with an 89.5, that is rounded up to an A-. But if you finish with an 89.49999999999999, that is still a B+.

Statement of Academic Integrity

Academic integrity lies at the foundation of the academic process. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts of fraud and deception on an examination or class assignment, acts of forgery or unauthorized alteration of any official academic record or document, and attempts to gain credit for work which one has plagiarized from the work of another person.

Plagiarism means taking ideas and writings from another person—known or unknown, published or unpublished—and representing them as one's own work. The word-for-word use of another person's work must in every instance be acknowledged by the use of quotation marks or by indentation and single-spacing of the material if at least three lines long, and the citation of author and precise source. Dependence upon another person's work, whether through paraphrase or the utilization of that person's statements as a basis for one's own, must be acknowledged by author and source citation.

Academic dishonesty also includes the submission, as one's own work, of another person's work, such as another student's term paper or a paper from a term paper preparation service. The submission of one's own paper, or a substantial portion thereof, for academic credit in two or more courses also is considered to

be academic dishonesty, except in those rare instances in which the instructors involved are so informed and give prior approval. In some cases when a faculty member believes that a student has not followed the rules for appropriate citation of materials he or she may wish to have the student redo the work or address the problem in another way.

No online research is allowed for this course without prior approval from the professor. Online encyclopedias (e.g. Wikipedia) are **not acceptable** academic sources in all cases. Often, they are merely repositories of plagiarized information, or simply, they cannot be trusted as can published material.

*Collaborative studying is allowed for this course, but no amount of collaboration may take place in the writing phase of any assignment. Doing such will be considered a form of cheating. Any submitted work that resembles too closely the submitted work of another student will result in serious consequences. Students must complete their own written work in its entirety. Also, no amount of copying (cutting and pasting) from other documents is allowed. All use of academic resources (lectures, essays, articles, books, online material, etc.) must properly cite/credit these sources for the ideas and language contained therein. Failure to do so is plagiarism, and will result in expulsion from the class, a grade of "F," and perhaps further academic penalties.

Resources for Avoiding Plagiarism

<http://web.uccs.edu/history/toolbox/plagiarism.htm>

<http://tlt.its.psu.edu/suggestions/cyberplag/cyberplagexamples.html>

<http://www.chem.uky.edu/Courses/common/plagiarism.html>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>

Student Conduct Standards and Procedures

<http://web.uccs.edu/studentconduct/>

Additional Course Information

No incompletes will be given unless the student contacts me well in advance of the end of the quarter. The circumstances must include serious medical problems or other extreme difficulties.

All requests for special accommodations, e.g., medical, athletic, or learning-related, must be presented to me the first day of class. All such requests must be accompanied by the appropriate paperwork to be considered.

No absences will be excused except in the cases of (a) an emergent medical situation or severe illness; or (b) a death in the student's immediate family.

"Disabilities Services: Students with disabilities should turn in their disability verification letters within the first two weeks of class. For further information, contact Disability Services, Main Hall 105, 255-3354. For more information, see the [Disability Services page: http://www.uccs.edu/~dservice/](http://www.uccs.edu/~dservice/)

Military students: If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, you are encouraged to contact your UCCS course instructor no later than the first week of class to discuss the class attendance policy. Please see the Military Students website for more information: <http://www.uccs.edu/~military/>."

Upon matriculation, all students implicitly agree to abide by the University's Academic Honor Code. Any violations of that code in our class will be taken very seriously. If we find evidence that you've violated the Honor Code, either intentionally or unintentionally, you will either (a) receive no credit for the assignment in question; or (b) be expelled from the class and assigned a failing grade for the course. In extreme cases, you may also be reported to the appropriate authorities on campus for further review.

A great online resource for learning proper citation and bibliographic method is the following: <http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

Accommodations

Any student wishing an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructors privately as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. We rely on the Office of Academic Support to verify the need for accommodation based on their office files.

FERPA Information

According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment, information concerning grades and other student information may only be disseminated to a student in a secure and confidential fashion.

OTHER INFO:

Philosophy Department Homepage: <http://web.uccs.edu/philosophy/>

Campus E-mail Log-in: <http://webmail.uccs.edu/>

Information Technology Site (for downloading VPN, helpdesk, etc.):

<http://www.uccs.edu/~helpdesk/index.html>

IT Services Helpdesk Phone: (719) 262-3536