

Rel. 150: Introduction to the World's Major Religions: Introduction to the world's living religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Modern Academic Study of Religion.
2. The Importance of Context and Interpretation.

II. JUDAISM

1. Historical Origins.
 - a. The Hebrew Bible
 - b. In Search of Ancient Israel
2. Cosmology.
 - a. Yahweh: From Henotheism to Monotheism
 - b. Salvation History and Damnation History
3. Ethics.
 - a. The Torah: 613 Laws
4. Judaism Today.
 - a. Orthodox, Conservative and Reform
5. Focus Analysis: Creation Myths

III. CHRISTIANITY

1. Historical Origins.
 - a. The New Testament
 - b. From Jesus to Paul to Constantine
2. Cosmology.

- a. Religious Synthesis: Dualism and the Kingdom of God
 - b. Universalization of Sin and the Response of Faith
3. Ethics.
- a. Jesus and the Fulfillment of the Jewish Law
4. Christianity Today.
- a. Catholicism and Protestantism
 - b.. Liberal vs. Conservative
5. Focus Analysis: Sacrifice

IV. ISLAM

1. Historical Origins.
- a. From Muhammed to Uthman
 - b. The Koran
2. Cosmology.
- a. Radical Monotheism: Allah
 - b. The Five Doctrines
3. Ethics.
- a. The Five Pillars
 - b. Other Observances
4. Islam Today.
- a. Sunni and Shi'ite
5. Focus Analysis: Fundamentalism

V. HINDUISM

1. Historical Origins.
- a. Dravidian Civilization and the Aryan Invasion
 - b. Sacred Texts: Vedas and Epics
2. Cosmology.

- a. Brahman, Atman and Maya
- b. Thirty-two Million gods

3. Ethics.

- a. Karma and the Caste System
- b. Stages and Duties of Life

4. Hinduism Today.

- a. Yoga, Bhakti and Tantra

5. Focus Analysis: Gods and Goddesses

VI. BUDDHISM

1. Historical Origins.

- a. Siddhartha Gautama and the Indian Period
- b. The Pali Canon
- c. Geographical Expansion

2. Cosmology.

- a. The Four Noble Truths
- b. Non-Attachment
- c. Sunyata

3. Ethics.

- a. The Noble Eightfold Path
- b. The Bodhisattva and Compassion

4. Buddhism Today.

- a. Theravada and Mahayana
- b. Zen

5. Focus Analysis: Meditation

VII. RELIGION IN CHINA: CONFUCIANISM AND TAOISM

1. Historical Origins.

- a. Confucius and Mencius

- b. The Han Dynasty
- c. Texts: I Ching and Tao Te Ching
- 2. Cosmology.
 - a. The Tao: Yin and Yang
 - b. Household gods and Ancestor Veneration
- 3. Ethics.
 - a. Confucian: Jen and Li
 - b. Taoist: Wu Wei
- 4. Chinese Religion Today.
- 5. Analysis: Ritual

VIII. SHINTO

- 1. Historical Origins.
 - a. Primitive Shinto
 - b. Chinese Influence
 - c. Texts: Kojiki and Nihongi
- 2. Cosmology.
 - a. Creation and the World of the Kami
- 3. Ethics.
 - a. Ritual and Purification
 - b. The Bushido Code
- 4. Shinto Today.
 - a. The New Religions and the New New Religions
- 5. Focus Analysis: Purity Systems

IX. INDIGENOUS RELIGION

- 1. Case Study: Hawaiian Religion

- a. Polynesian Antecedents
- b. Animism
- c. Anthropomorphism

2. Focus Analysis: Myth

TEXT: Toropov & Buckles, The Complete Idiot's Guide to the World's Religions

GRADING: There will be three exams. The first exam will be worth 20% of your final grade. The second and third exams will each count for 40% of your final grade. All exams will be essays.

David Panisnick

Office: 7-623

Hours: MW 8:00-8:30, 1:00-2:00, F 8:00-11:00; by appointment.

Phone: 845-9423

e-mail: panisnic@hawaii.edu

SLO: Student Learning Opportunities: Upon completion of the course a student should be able to:

1. Speak and write objectively about Religion as an academic topic.
2. Critically explain contemporary challenges in understanding the historical origins of the world's major religions.
3. Accurately identify important names, dates, and events in the world's major religions.
4. Succinctly and objectively explain the major beliefs and practices of the world's major religions.
5. Analyze the contemporary status of each of the world's major religions within a global perspective.

Prerequisites and General Education Core: Recommended Prep: Placement in ENG 22/60. Rel. 150 fulfills a general education core requirement for the A.S., A.A.S., and A.T.S. degrees in (d) Understanding and appreciating world cultures and values. For the A.A. degree, Rel. 150 fulfills a diversification requirement in Arts, Humanities, and Literature in Group 2: Humanities (DH). Rel. 150 fulfills 3 credits of the Foundations Requirements under Global and Multicultural Perspectives.