

# Religious Studies 100: Religions of the Modern World

## Summer 2013 Imperial Valley College

**Instructor:** Aaron S. Edwards

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**Required Text:** *Living Religions* by Mary Pat Fisher 9<sup>th</sup> Edition

### Course Description:

This course is an introductory survey of selected world religions. Emphasized is a study of some origins, beliefs, and philosophical concepts underlying Indigenous religions, as well as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

### Course Objectives:

- Identify and distinguish basic vocabulary, beliefs, origins and developments of the world's major religions.
- Evaluate each religion in its cultural and historical context.
- Compare and contrast different religious beliefs and traditions with the culturally diverse environment of the United States and elsewhere.
- Define (in an effort to eliminate) preconceptions that foster the stereotypical thinking from which racism, sexism and egocentrism arise.
- Evaluate the contributions of relevant religious traditions to cultural diversity in the United States and elsewhere.

### Class Structure:

This course is designed to enhance the learning experience by utilizing lecture, class discussion, and audio/visuals. The semester is divided into several sections:

- Introduction to the concept "religion", and various perspectives and theories surrounding religion
- General themes of the Eastern religions
- General themes of the Western religions

In-class exercises, readings quizzes, written homework will be given for each religion that we cover. An extra credit assignment will also be offered. Other assignments include involvement in an in class Group work, one reflection paper, and three exams.

### Course Requirements:

Final grades will be determined by class participation, quizzes, a short paper, and four exams, including a final exam, as outlined below:

<b>In-Class Exams: 30%</b>	<b>Final Exam: 25%</b>	<b>Paper: 20%</b>	<b>Participation: 15%</b>	<b>Quizzes: 10%</b>
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Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F.

There will be two exams throughout the semester, one midterm and a comprehensive final. Before each exam I will tell you what kinds of topics will be on the test so you can prepare accordingly.

In addition to the Paper and exams, there will be 4 **pop** quizzes, each is worth 2.5% of your final grade. There will also be a term paper (4-6 pages) assigned near the end of the semester. The specifics of the paper will be covered in class.

Finally, a significant component of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. To do well in the class, you should do all of the reading assignments and group work in order to obtain you class participation points.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism means attempting to give the reader the idea that words or ideas in an essay are your own when in fact they are someone else's. This is a serious academic offense that can get you thrown out of college. Don't take chances! If you have questions about what should be documented or cited, please ask me.

### **Disability Statement:**

Each student at Imperial Valley College has the same rights, and privileges as any other student; this includes students with disabilities. Students in this course who have documented disability should meet with a Disabled Student Services and Programs (DSP&S) Counselor as soon as possible as well as notify me in some way. The DSP&S office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 355-6312.

### **Semester Schedule**

The following is a tentative schedule of the course and may change if required. You will be expected to have read the assigned reading by the time you attend the relevant class

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
June 24	Course overview, What is Religion? Religion, Science and Secularism	Chapter One
June 25	Hinduism: History and Metaphysics	Chapter two
June 26	Hinduism: Paths of action, knowledge and devotion	Chapter Three
June 27	Hinduism; Movie	Review for first Test
<b>Exam 1 Monday July 1; Start Buddhism</b>		<b>Read pages 137-149</b>
July 2	Branches of Buddhism; Theravada Buddhism	Read Pages 150-157

July 3	Zen and Vajrayana Buddhism	Read pages 158-175
July 8	Movie on Buddhism	
July 9	Judaism: Ancient Israel it's prophets	Read Pages 246-261
July 10	Rabbinic Judaism	Read Pages 261-277
July 11	The Torah	Read Pages 278-295
July 15	Watch Movie Review for test	
July 16	Test #2/ Start Christianity Story and Ministry	
July 17	Teachings of Jesus and crucifixion	Read pages 302-321
July 18	The early church and modern church	Read pages 321-365
July 22	Movie	
July 23	Islam; The Prophet Muhammad and The Qur'an	Read Pages 377-387
July 24	The Teachings of Islam	Read Pages 387-399
July 25	Sunni, Shi'a and Suffism; Vice Movie	Read Pages 399-430
July 29	Movie "Seven Wonders of the Muslim World"	Read Pages 494-511
July 30	Religion in the twenty first century	Read Pages 511-518
July 31	Religion and Ethics: Divine Command Theory and Buddhism	
August 1	Final	