



蘇州大學
Soochow University

Soochow University

RLG 100 World Religion

Summer 2021

Course Information

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 58 hours

Class Time: 8:30 - 10:20

Instructor: TBA

Course Format: Online

Course Description

The course introduces a variety of religions around the world from a comparative perspective. Religions in this course will include Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, religions in North America and South America, as well as African religions, East Asian beliefs (i.e. in China, Korea and Japan), and ancient religions of Iraq and Iran, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The course discusses the history and practices of different religious traditions and how religions are related to individual life. Furthermore, the course also explores the new forms of older religions and the relationship between religions and globalization.

Prerequisite(s)

None



Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the development of the religion, the religious practice and the impact of religion;
2. Discuss the issues related to the religions and the influence of religions on individuals;
3. Compare the similarities and differences between religions;
4. Get familiar with the perception of rituals, ceremonies, beliefs and worldview assumptions of adherents of the religions.

Methodology

Methodology	Hours	Hours of work During class	Hours of work After class
Online Video	50	88 hours (60%)	
Online Forum Discussion	8		
Assessment	30		
Personal study	30		68 hours (40%)
Tasks	22		
Practical teaching preparation	10		
Bibliographic search	6		
Total	156	88	68

Textbook(s)

World Religions by Warren Matthews, 6th Edition, Cengage Learning Press, 2010.



Tasks and Evaluation

Assignments	20% (10% for each)
Quizzes	20% (10% for each)
Midterm	25%
Final exam	35%

Students are required to attend online classes on the scheduled time. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

- Missing less than two classes: no penalty.
- Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

Online forum discussion is required. Students are required to post at least one question and answer at least one question on the forum weekly.

Online Tutorials are mandatory. Students will read and discuss academic articles provided. Students will also discuss the case studies for the week's lectures. Each Tutorial will be 1 hour.

All exams will be held online and the time of each exam will be limited to 1 hour. Exams must also be taken at the scheduled time. There will be no make-up exams.



Rating System:

1. Assessment

ASSESSMENT ITEM	PERCENT OF FINAL GRADE
Assignments	20% (10% for each)
Quizzes	20% (10% for each)
Midterm	25%
Final exam	35%

2. Grading Scale

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	

Course Content

Week	Lecture	Topics	Dues	%
1	1	Course Introduction		
	2	Religions of North America		
	3	Religions of Mesoamerica and South America		
	4	The Ancient Egyptians		
	5	The Basongye of the Congo	Assignment 1	10
2	6	The Zulu People of South Africa		
	7	Hinduism		
	8	Buddhis		
	9	Jainism	Quiz 2	10
	10	Sikhism		



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3	11		Midterm Test	25
	12	Beliefs in China before the Sages		
	13	Shinto		
	14	Ancient Religions of Iraq		
	15	Ancient Religions of Iran	Assignment 2	10
4	16	Judaism		
	17	Christianity		
	18	Islam		
	19	Islam and the future	Quiz 2	10
	20	New Forms of Older Religions		
5	21	Theosophical Society		
	22	Globalization and World Religions		
	23	Community an Ethics		
	24	Final Exam Review		
	25		Final Exam	35



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University Regulations and Services

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

Soochow University also highly respects students' accommodation for disabilities and religions. You might contact the Student Accessibility Office if you have any questions, concerns or if you would like to report any offensive behaviors.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.