



Soochow University

RLGN 1011 World Religions I

Course Outline

Summer, 2020

The course introduces a variety of religions, with a focus on their origins and history, places, philosophies and religious practices. Students will explore how religions are related to individual life and how religious thoughts and wisdom have an impact on our society. This course will discuss religions of North and South Americas, African religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Beliefs in China.

Course Information

Contact Hours: 54 hours

Credits: 3 credits

Course Prerequisite: n/a

Instructor: TBA

Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing the 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

Textbooks/Materials

Warren Matthews. (2010). *World Religions*, 6th edition, Wadsworth, Cengage Learning Press.

Attendance Requirements and Academic Integrity

Students are required to attend 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.

Exams must be taken on the scheduled day and location. There will be no makeup exam for summer sessions.

Soochow University values academic integrity, respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility. Students must be aware of and comply with Soochow University's Academic Integrity policies. Any cheating, falsification, plagiarism, impersonation or any attempting to commit the above will be reported to the university's administration office. Any academic dishonesty behaviors will be kept on record and students will be punished according to the rules.



Evaluation and Grading

Participation and Homework	10%
2 Essays	20% for each
Midterm Test	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total: 100%	

Homework will be given on a regular basis in order to reinforce the understanding of specific skills and they should be submitted to the course website. Students will be given a list of essay topics and be required to write their essay independently. Essays should be handed in via the course website and in 12 font size, double spaced format. More details will be discussed in class.

Midterm Test will be held on the middle of the class while the Final Exam will be on the last day of the class. More details will be informed in class.

Soochow University's grading scale is shown as the following:

Letter Grade	Score Grade	Grade Point Average
A+	95-100	4.0
A	90-94	4.0
A-	85-89	3.7
B+	80-84	3.3
B	75-79	3.0
B-	72-74	2.7



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C+	68-71	2.3
C	65-67	2.0
C-	60-64	1.7
D+	55-59	1.3
D	50-54	1.0
F	< 50	0.0

Course Topics

1. Week of June 8th:

Course Introduction and Overview

Religions of North America

Religions of Mesoamerica and South America

2. Week of June 15th: **Essay 1 due (20%)**

The Ancient Egyptians

The Basongye of the Congo

The Zulu People of South Africa

3. Week of June 22nd: **Midterm Test (20%)**

Hinduism

Buddhism

Review for the midterm

Midterm Test



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4. Week of June 29th: **Essay 2 due (20%)**

Jainism

Sikhism

Beliefs in China before the Sages

5. Week of July 6th: **Final Exam (30%)**

Beliefs in China before the Sages

Confucianism

Shinto

Final Revision