



# FENG CHIA UNIVERSITY

## Introduction to Religions

**GHUR305, Summer 2019 (May 13 - Jun 14)**

Lecturer: Annie J. Daniel

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Time: Monday through Friday

Contact hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Office hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

### Course Description

This subject aims at providing students with a fundamental understanding of diverse types of religions and religious practices in today's world. At the same time, the course will examine the complex nature of religious phenomena, including religious knowledge and competing truth claims.

### Course Objectives

Religion is one of the most widespread and deeply entrenched aspects of human experience. It is also a phenomenon that has proven remarkably resistant to systematic explanation. Through this course, students will gain a deeper understanding for the diversity and complexity of religion/s as well as a basic understanding of the study of religion. By the end of the course students will possess: course is an introduction to an array of influential approaches to explaining religion and its core aspects – e.g. ritual, religious institutions and belief in the supernatural.

- ◆ Familiarity with the features that are common in many world religions;
- ◆ A greater understanding of the core aspects of religion;
- ◆ An in-depth understanding of some highly influential approaches to explaining religion;
- ◆ An understanding of the major religions and religious practice in today's world.

### Required Text

Hopfe, L. M. & Woodward, M. R. (2009). *Religions of the World* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Additional readings and resources will be distributed in class.

### **Course Hours**

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

### **Grading Policy**

Your overall course grade will be assigned on the basis of the following components (percentage of overall grade in parenthesis):

- ◆ First exam (15%)
- ◆ Second exam (15%)
- ◆ Third exam (15%)
- ◆ Final exam (15%)
- ◆ Research Paper and Presentation (20%)
- ◆ Attendance & Participation (20%).

### **Course Policies**

- ◆ Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
- ◆ Students are expected to read the required readings prior to the class session in which they are discussed.
- ◆ Class Conduct: Consistent, respectful and informed participation is expected from every student in the course. This includes:
  - ◆ Respectful discussion that avoids personal history;
  - ◆ No email or Internet usage during class;
  - ◆ Cell phones turned off when class begins.
- ◆ I will respond to emails in a timely manner. It is best to make an appointment or speak to me after lecture.
- ◆ It is your responsibility to keep me updated with attendance, email, etc.
- ◆ Please check your email regularly for instructions and readings.

### **Grading Scale**

Grading System of FCU

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Score</b>
A	80-100
B	70-79
C	60-69
D	50-59
E	Below 50

### **Class Schedule**

#### **Week 1:**

Mon. Course Overview  
 Tues. Basic Religions and World Religions Chapter 1  
 Wed. Native American Religions Chapter 2  
 Thurs. African Religions Chapter 3  
 Fri. First Exam

#### **Week 2:**

Mon. Hinduism Chap. 4  
 Tues. Hinduism continued  
 Wed. Jainism Chapter 5  
 Thurs. Buddhism Chapter 6  
 Fri. Buddhism continued

#### **Week 3:**

Mon. Sikhism Chapter 7  
 Tues. Second Exam  
 Wed. Chinese Religions Chapter 8  
 Thurs. Shinto Chapter 9  
 Fri. Zoroastrianism Chapter 10

#### **Week 4:**

Mon. Third Exam  
 Tues. Judaism Chapter 11  
 Wed. Judaism continued  
 Thurs. Christianity Chapter 12  
 Fri. Christianity continued

**Week 5:**

Mon. Islam Chapter 13

Tue. Islam continued

Wed. Research Paper and Presentation

Thurs. Presentation and Final Review

Fri. Final Exam

**Academic Honesty**

Feng Chia University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.