

WORLD RELIGIONS - REL 1220 - 901 - CRN: 42502

Aug 28 - Dec 15, 2017

U Toledo Distance Learning Course

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REL 1220-901 WORLD RELIGIONS

Course Description: [3 hours] A study of the major religions of the world, with an emphasis on non-Western religions. We shall particularly explore the response of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions to the challenges posed by contemporary fundamentalism and secularism. In this course, we will be exploring classical, modern, and postmodern conceptions and receptions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, in light of the complex phenomenon of globalization. DL course.

The course is accessible to students coming from various academic backgrounds and its online format is very practical and pleasant. This course is being offered entirely online through the University of Toledo's Blackboard/WebCT system, accessible through the MyUT Web Portal. Students encountering any technical difficulties should contact the IT Help Desk at 419-530-2400, or the department of Distance Learning at 419-530-8835.

Required Text: John L. Esposito, Darrell J. Fasching and Todd Lewis, **Religion and Globalization: World Religions in Historical Perspective**. Oxford University Press, 2007. Paperback. ISBN13: 9780195176957. ISBN10: 0195176952.

Grades are based on point accumulation throughout the 4 months (from **Aug 28** through **Dec 15, 2017**), divided into six units. There are 6 Homeworks/Quizzes and a Final Exam worth 10 points each (total up to 70 points). Participation is worth 30 points (by sharing your views, insights, comments, and criticisms with classmates on the Discussion Board on-line on a weekly basis or at least one posting per Unit). Students can earn up to 100 points in this course.

Final grades for the course are based on the following scale:

93-100 pts. = A	77-79 pts. = C+
90-92 pts. = A-	73-76 pts. = C
87-89 pts. = B+	70-72 pts. = C-
83-86 pts. = B	60-69 pts. = D
80-82 pts. = B-	59 and below = F

Academic Honesty:

Neither plagiarism (i.e., presenting the written work of another as one's own) nor cheating (i.e., providing answers to exam questions or receiving exam answers from another) will be tolerated. Any academic dishonesty will be disciplined according to the guidelines in the University of Toledo student handbook.

Accessibility:

If you need special accommodations to follow this course, please notify me immediately. Any student needing accommodation based on the impact of a disability and students with documented disabilities should contact the Office of Accessibility (419.383.5792-<http://www.utoledo.edu/centers/cci/web/accessibility.html>) to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Reading Assignments & Class Structure:

Chapters on the schedule refer to the assigned readings from the textbook (chapters 1-6). Prepare all the readings before the date given. The reading assignments are usually short and hopefully pleasant. Every week you'll have the opportunity to post your comments (at least one posting per Unit on the Discussion Board, in order to get full credit for Participation), ask questions and do self-assessment by taking the quiz online or writing a couple of paragraphs to address some of the suggested study questions. The quizzes and homeworks tabs are made available during the whole week and the following week, so that at any time during these 2 weeks you can take the quiz online or use the Homework tab to turn in your essay (a couple of paragraphs, about 150-250 words, addressing one or two questions from the assigned chapter). Make sure you understand the 10 key concepts or key terms for each week (see Glossary, available in PDF at the course website) and by regularly visiting the Oxford University Press link to the Student Resources for World Religions Today:

<http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199759514/student/>

Class Participation

Class participation is essential. That includes active involvement in all phases of the class, including the ongoing Discussions on-line (at least one posting per Unit).

Class Schedule:**Unit 1: Aug 28 - Sep 16 : Chapter 1: WORLD RELIGIONS & GLOBALIZATION**

Topics for Discussion: Religion and Globalization; Universalism and Secularization

Sep 9 – 16 : HOMEWORK / QUIZ # 1**Unit 2: Sep 17 - 30 : Chap. 2: Christianity and the Road to Globalization**

Topics for Discussion: The Judeo-Christian Worldview; Christianity, Modernity, Postmodernity

Sep 23 - 30 : HOMEWORK / QUIZ # 2 / Bonus / Midterm # 1

Unit 3: Oct 1 - 15 : Chap. 3: The Many Faces of Judaism

Topics for Discussion: Traditional Judaism; Modern and Postmodern Judaism

Oct 8 - 15 : HOMEWORK / QUIZ # 3

Unit 4 : Oct 15 - 29 : Chap. 4: The Globalization of Islam and Muslims

Topics for Discussion: Islam and Modernity; Postmodern Trends in a Postcolonial World

Oct 22 - 29 : HOMEWORK / QUIZ # 4

Unit 5 : Oct 29 - Nov 12: Chap. 5: Hinduism: Myriad Paths to Salvation

Topics for Discussion: Hindu Challenges to India as a Secular State; Postcolonialism

Nov 5 - 12 : HOMEWORK / QUIZ # 5

Unit 6: Nov 12 - Dec 3 : Chap. 6: Buddhism: Ways to Nirvana

Topics for Discussion: Encounter with (Post)Modernity: Socially Engaged Buddhism

Nov 26 - Dec 3 : HOMEWORK / QUIZ # 6

Dec 3 - 9 : Make-Up / Bonus / Midterm # 2

Dec 9 - 15 : FINAL EXAM (multiple-choice exam, covers all material Units 1-6)

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