


**SAMPLE SYLLABUS: CURRENT USERS**  
*Introduction to World Religions: Second Edition*  
Christopher Partridge

INSTRUCTOR	Bruce Flickinger 
INSTITUTION	Flagler College
COURSE TITLE	REL 211, Religions of the World, Sections DF & EF
SEMESTER	Spring 2014-2015

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introductory course that surveys the major religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. (Flagler College catalog, 2007 - 2008, p.202). The course will include, as part of the study of Hinduism, study of Jainism.

**EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Students to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, beliefs, arguments, and points of view that comprise the different major religions of the world.
2. Students to gain a broader understanding and appreciation for the various religious beliefs and practices of adherents of the different major religions of the world; achieved through the exercise of an appropriate sympathy and empathy aimed to understand each religion on its own terms.
3. Students to develop skill in expressing oneself orally and in writing; orally through active participation in class discussion; writing through answering essay questions on the mid-term examination and on the final examination.
4. Students to gain factual knowledge of each of the world's major religious traditions through learning basic vocabulary and terminology, general historical origin and development, key religious personalities, and basic religious observances and practices. Factual knowledge to be demonstrated in the periodic quizzes and in the mid-term and final examinations.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *An Introduction to World Religions*, second edition, Christopher Partridge, general editor, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013.
2. *Study Companion to World Religions*, second edition, Beth Wright, editor, Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.

## COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Class Description	Reading Assignments
<b>Study of Religion</b>		
Friday, 16 January	The Nature of Religions; their place in societies and culture  Family Resemblance, Story (narrative, myths), Symbolic Language  <b>Distribution</b> of “Declaration toward a Global Ethic” for Discussion Session, Friday, 23 January	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> Partridge, pp. 19 – 54, and <b>457 – 462</b>
Monday, 19 January	<b>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY (College Closed; No Class Session)</b>	
Wednesday, 21 January	Theism, Atheism, Polytheism and Monotheism; Cyclical vs Linear, Categories of Myths; Santa Claus	
Friday, 23 January	<b>DISCUSSION GROUPS:</b> “Declaration toward a Global Ethic”	
Monday, 26 January	<i>Mysterium Tremendum et Fascinans</i> ; Existentialism to Postmodernism; Science and Religion  <b>Distribution</b> of “In Two Minds,” from: <i>The Great Partnership: Science, Religion, and the Search for Meaning</i> . Jonathan Sacks. (New York: Schocken, 2011).	
Wednesday, 28 January	<b>DISCUSSION GROUPS:</b> “In Two Minds”	
Friday, 30 January	<b>QUIZ # 1: THE STUDY OF RELIGION</b>	
<b>Hinduism/Jainism</b>		
Monday, 2 February	Introduction to Hinduism and the Indian Subcontinent	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> Partridge, pp. 166 – 200
Wednesday, 4 February	Key Hindu Concepts and Terminology: Moksha, Samsara, Karma, Dharma, Murti	

	<b>Distribution</b> of “Are Hindus Monotheists or Polytheists?” from, <i>On Hinduism</i> . Wendy Doniger. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014).	
Friday, 6 February	<b>DISCUSSION GROUPS:</b> “Are Hindus Monotheists or Polytheists?”	
Monday, 9 February	Major Deities; Tri-Murti; Stages of Hindu Life; <i>Bhakti</i> yoga, <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , <i>Rig Vita</i>	
Wednesday, 11 February	<b>Jainism</b>	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> Partridge, pp. 235 - 260
Friday, 13 February	Jainism	
Monday, 16 February	<b>QUIZ # 2: HINDUISM/JAINISM</b>	
<b><u>Buddhism</u></b>		
Wednesday, 18 February	Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> Partridge, pp. 201 – 234
Friday, 20 February	The Four Noble Truths; The Eightfold Path	
Monday, 23 February	Meditation; Modern Buddhism	
Wednesday, 25 February	<b>QUIZ # 3: BUDDHISM</b>	
<b><u>Chinese Religion: Taoism and Confucianism</u></b>		
Friday, 27 February	Taoism; Lao Tzu; <i>The Tao Te Ching</i>	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> Partridge, pp. 261 – 278
Monday, 2 March	Confucianism; Confucius	
Wednesday, 4 March	<b>QUIZ # 4: TAOISM AND CONFUCIANISM</b>	
Friday, 6 March	<b>MID-TERM EXAMINATION</b>	
<b><u>Judaism</u></b>		
Monday, 9 March	Introduction to Judaism; Abraham; the Abrahamic Covenant; Concept of Revelation; Linear Thought	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> Partridge, pp. 295 – 342
Wednesday, 11 March	Torah; Tanakh (Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim), biblical criticism	
Friday, 13 March	Second Temple Judaism; Rabbinic Judaism; Maimonides; Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Judaism	
Monday, 16 March	Jewish Festivals/Holy Days; Bar Mitzvah; Bat Mitzvah	
Wednesday, 18 March	<b>QUIZ # 5: JUDAISM</b>	
Friday, 20 March	<b>SPRING BREAK; No Class</b>	

<b><u>Christianity</u></b>		
Monday, 23 March	The Historical Jesus; biblical criticism	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> Partridge, pp. 343 – 386
Wednesday, 25 March	Transformation of the Jesus Movement into Christianity and the Church;  Church of the East; the Imperial Church; Constantine; the Great Schism	
Friday, 27 March	Sacraments; Feasts and Fasts; Late Medieval European Christianity	
Monday, 30 March	The Reformation; Post-Enlightenment Christianity (missions, ecumenism,  Abolitionism, woman’s ordination, human sexuality)  <b>Distribution of: Reading Material TBA</b> for Discussion Group Wednesday	
Wednesday, 1 April	<b>DISCUSSION GROUPS:</b> Topic to be announced	
Friday, 3 April	<b>QUIZ # 6: CHRISTIANITY</b>	
<b><u>Islam</u></b>		
Monday, 6 April	Muhammad ibn Abd Allah	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> Partridge, pp. 387 – 428
Wednesday, 8 April	Growth and Spread of Islam	
Friday, 10 April	The Qur’an	
Monday, 13 April	The Five Pillars of Islam	
Wednesday, 15 April	Contemporary Islam  <b>Distribution of:</b> “Family Resemblances,” from, <i>Fundamentalism: The Search for</i> <i>Meaning</i> . Malise Ruthven. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).	
Friday, 17 April	<b>DISCUSSION GROUPS:</b> “Family Resemblances”	
Monday, 20 April	<b>QUIZ # 7: ISLAM</b>	
Wednesday, 22 April	<b>REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	
Friday, 24 April	<b>READING DAY – NO CLASS</b>	
<b>MONDAY, 27 April 2015</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION, SECTION DF, 12:30 – 2:30</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY, 29 April 2015</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION, SECTION EF, 12:30 – 2:30</b>	