

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

INSTRUCTOR	Darren Duerksen
INSTITUTION	Fresno Pacific University
COURSE TITLE	REL 460: Religions of the World
SEMESTER	Spring 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the critical study of the religions of the world. The course will focus on Judaism, Islam, and South Asian religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism). It will investigate sacred texts and provide an overview of the regional, historical, cultural and social elements of these religious traditions.

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Following this course students will be able to:

1. Describe important beliefs and practices of major world religions
2. Articulate theories and concepts related to the academic study of religion and the field of religious studies
3. Analyze the interaction that occurs between a religion and other elements of society

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Texts

1. Partridge, Christopher ed. *Introduction to World Religions*. Fortress Press, 2nd Ed. 2013. (ISBN: 978-0-8006-9970-3)
2. M.A.S. Abdel Haleem (translator). *The Qur'an*. Oxford University Press, Reissue Ed. 2008. (ISBN: 978-0199535958)
3. Fisher, Pat. *Anthology of Living Religions*. Pearson, 3rd Ed. 2011. (ISBN: 978-0205246809)

Films:

1. *Whale Rider* (2002; available in FPU library)
2. *Ushpizin* (2005; available in FPU library)
3. *Wadjda* (2012; available in FPU library)
4. *The Cup* (1999; available at <http://dotsub.com/view/bc58bfaa-4318-4b67-88e5-d05cec1fd632>)
5. *Ganges: River to Heaven* (on Moodle)
6. *Kumare* (2012; in class)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Viewings	Assignments & Exams
1	Mon Jan 12	Course Introduction & Syllabus		
	Wed Jan 14	Studying "Religion"	IWR ch 1-8 ALR p 10-16 (35 pages)	
2	Mon Jan 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (No Class)		
	Wed Jan 21	Indigenous Religions	IWR ch 19-20, 22, 24-25, 28-30 ALR p 39-41, 45, 46-51 (34 pages) <i>Whale Rider</i>	Response Paper for <i>Whale Rider</i>
3	Mon Jan 26	Judaism	IWR ch 53-58 (35 pages)	
	Wed Jan 28	Branches of Judaism & Quiz	IWR ch 59-60 ALR p 198-199, 208-210, 213-222 http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Nachman.html (22 pages) <i>View Ushpizin</i>	Quiz 1 Response Paper for <i>Ushpizin</i>
4	Mon Feb 2	No Class		
	Wed Feb 4	Islam	IWR ch 68-73 ALR p 275-279 (33 pages)	
	Fri Feb 6	Class-trip to Fresno Masjid, 2111 East Shaw Ave (across from Fresno State) 12.30-2.30PM		
5	Mon Feb 9	The Qur'an & Sufism	Readings from the Qur'an (see below) ALR p 295-300 (50 short pages)	Mosque Visit paper
	Wed Feb 11	Modern-Day Islam & Quiz	IWR ch 74-76 ALR p 290-293, 300-303 (16 pages) <i>View Wadjda</i>	Quiz 2 Response Paper for <i>Wadjda</i>
6	Mon Feb 16	Presidents Holiday (No Class)		
	Wed Feb 18	Hinduism: Origins, Vedas, Upanishads	IWR ch 31-34 ALR 64-70 (24 pages)	
7	Mon Feb 23	Manu & caste, Puranas, temples and the Ganges	IWR ch 35 ALR p 70-84 (18 pages) <i>View Ganges River to Heaven (on Moodle)</i>	Reading Response paper 1
	Wed Feb 25	Class Trip to Hindu Temple of Fresno, 7699 East Alluvial Ave, Clovis 3:45-5:00PM		
8	Mon Mar 2	Bhakti, Modern-Day Hinduism	IWR ch 36-37 (8 pages) <i>Holi?</i>	Temple Visit paper
	Wed Mar 4	Mid-Term Exam		Exam
Mar 9-13 Spring Break				
9	Mon Mar 16	Buddhism	IWR 38-40 ALR p 114-120 (25 pages)	
	Wed Mar 18	Theravada & Mahayana	ALR p 120-125 (5 pages)	Research Paper proposal

10	Mon Mar 23	Tantric, Vajrayana & Japanese Buddhism	IWR p 289-291 ALR p 125-140 (17 pages) Guest Speaker: Alan Sakamoto	Reading Response paper 2
	Wed Mar 25	Modern-Day Buddhism	IWR 41-42 (11 pages) <i>The Cup</i>	Response Paper for <i>The Cup</i>
11	Mon Mar 30	Confucianism	IWR p 262-269 ALR p 149-160 (16 pages)	
	Wed Apr 1	Daoism	IWR p 269-272 ALR 160-171 (20 pages)	Quiz 3
12	Mon Apr 6	No Class		
	Wed Apr 8	Sikhism	IWR ch 77-82 (24 pages)	
	Sun Apr 12	Class trip to Sikh Gurdwara, 2211 Highland Ave, Selma, CA for Vaisakhi celebration. Arrive at 11.15AM and remain until 1.00PM		
13	Mon Apr 13	Sikhism	ALR p 316-332 (16 pages)	Annotated Bibliography
	Wed Apr 15	Modern-Day Sikhism & Quiz	Nesbitt, <i>The Shaping of Modern Sikhism</i> (19 pages, article on Moodle)	Quiz 4 Gurdwara Visit paper
14	Mon Apr 20	New Religious Movements (NRMs)	IWR ch 84, 85 ALR p 335-338, 343-350 (19 pages)	
	Wed Apr 22	NRMs in the U.S.	In-class Case Study: Screening of <i>Kumare</i>	
15	Mon Apr 27	NRMs in the U.S.	<i>Kumare</i> and Discussion	
	Wed Apr 29	Religion in the 21st century	IWR ch 83, 86, 87, 88 ALR p 356-357 (18 pages)	Research Paper
16	Mon May 4	Final Exam 3:00- 5:00PM		