

# FOR THE INSTRUCTOR: HOW TO USE THE STUDY COMPANION

This study companion provides many resources to supplement the rich material offered by the textbook *Introduction to World Religions*. Instructors may find the following features particularly helpful:

- ▶ At the beginning of the companion is a pre-test in multiple choice form (answers on page XX). Use the pre-test to assess your students' knowledge of world religion at the beginning of the course or before they start reading the textbook.
- ▶ The *Chapter Summaries* for each part provide an overview that highlights key themes and concepts. Encourage your students to read them before they read the section in the textbook and to prepare for quizzes and exams.
- ▶ *Key Personalities* are significant historical figures from the tradition; a brief biographical sketch is included for each. Additional materials are often also provided, such as quotations from primary sources or scholarly analysis of the figure's work or significance. Students can review these before or after reading a section and may find them helpful for pre-exam review or when searching for a paper topic. (Note: In chapter 3, "Indigenous Religions," *A Brief Survey of Traditions* replaces the Key Personalities section. In addition the *Annotated Bibliography* offers further resources related to the topics of the chapter's case studies.)
- ▶ *Primary Source Readings* offer students further historical context and content related to the religion under discussion. You may wish to use the materials as the source of exam questions that ask the students to analyze the text in light of what they know of the faith tradition.
- ▶ *Key Terms* are important concepts and vocabulary words from the tradition, accompanied by definitions. Students should be encouraged to familiarize themselves with these terms in preparation for quizzes and exams.
- ▶ *Questions for Study and Discussion* and *Questions for Reflection* offer students the chance to test their comprehension of the topic and key concepts. They may serve as a source for homework assignments (students write their answers and turn them in), class discussion (students write their answers before coming to class), or preparation for tests (students write their responses below the questions and review them for the exam).
- ▶ *Additional Online Resources* offer a taste of online information about the topics discussed in the section. Encourage students to use the links as starting places on the web that may lead them to essay or research paper topics.

If your course requires students to write a research paper, direct them to the guide at the end of this book. It provides a step-by-step process of writing a research paper, including deciding on a topic and developing a thesis, note taking, outlining, writing and revising a draft, ensuring proper bibliographic style (examples are included), and polishing the final paper. Also included are helpful bibliographies of online and print reference works and style manuals.

We hope this study companion provides useful material to supplement the textbook and assists you in your effort to expand students' understanding of world religions.