

**RELS 100 – CRN20376 –SPRING 2010
RELIGIONS OF THE MODERN WORLD**

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Instructor: Ms. Suzi Jacobson
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Room: **Wednesday evening-Room 1602**

CELL PHONES, pagers and/or other communication devices must be **turned off** and placed out of site for the duration of the class. Violation of this policy will result in an immediate pop quiz for the entire class.

I Course Description

An introduction to the various contemporary religions of the world. Study of the basic beliefs, history and tradition of the world's major religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Objectivity and impartiality are important characteristics of our study. We seek to *understand* the world's religions, not evaluate their comparative merits.

Required Texts

- **Living Religions**, Seventh Ed. by Mary Pat Fisher–Pearson/Prentice Hall Pub.
- **Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey from Bozeman to Benares**, Diana L. Eck-Beacon Press, Boston
- **Other readings as assigned**

II Student Learning Objectives *At the conclusion of the course students will be able to:*

- Identify and discuss the nature of religious revelation and interpretation of sacred texts.
- Recognize the relationship between religion and culture and the relevance of religious belief and experience to modern life and the human condition.
- Identify the origin, characteristic beliefs, practices, and terminology unique to the religions we study.

III Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all lectures, arrive on time, and to remain for the entire class period. Lectures and class discussions assume familiarity with text materials and students should be prepared with questions or comments intended to clarify or expand on the content of the readings.

IV Attendance is expected

- because participation in class is an important learning opportunity;
- because lectures, presentations, and examinations will contain material supplementing assigned readings;
- and because your learning will suffer when you are not present.

Students who miss class are responsible for material covered in their absence, including other students' presentations.

V Course Development and Grading

There will be unit quizzes, short written assignments, a research paper and a comprehensive final exam. You will sign up for your research paper topic early in the semester and papers will be due throughout the term. Both a written paper and a classroom presentation of your research will be required.

<u>Weight of assignments:</u>	
Class Participation	10 points
Writing Assignments (4)	20 points
Research Paper (1)	15 points
Quizzes (4)	20 points
Midterm Exam	15 points
Final Exam	<u>20 points</u>
	100 points

VI Grade Distribution

Course grade will be a percentage of points earned divided by points available. **A** 94-100%; **A-** 90-93%; **B+** 87-89%; **B** 84-86%; **B-** 80-83%; **C+** 77-79%; **C** 74-76; **C-** 70-73%; **D** 60-69%; **F** less than or equal to 59%.

VII IVC Drop Policy

A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class may be dropped by the instructor immediately following that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students enrolled. Instructors are expected to take a student's attendance record into account in computing grades. A student may be excluded from further attendance in a class during any semester when absences after the close of registration have exceeded the number of class hours which the class meets per week. A student who is tardy three times may be considered as having been absent once. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and attendance upon field trips will not be counted as absences.

VIII Academic Integrity

Academic integrity includes a commitment neither to engage in nor tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic

work of another student, and facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty. *Sanctions for breaches of academic integrity may range (depending on the severity of the offense) from F for the assignment to F for the course.*

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) office as soon as possible. The DSPS office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 355-6312.

Feb 17	Overview Lecture & Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What’s your religious IQ?” • “My religious experience” 	Apr 21	Islam 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 10 pp. 378-398 • Read Eck-Ch. 3 “The Names of God” • Islam papers due
Feb 24	Religious Responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 1 • Writing Assign. #1 due 	Apr 28	Islam 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 10 pp. 399-429 • present Islam papers • Writing Assign. #3 due
Mar 3	Indigenous Sacred Ways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH.2 • Quiz #1 	May 5	Hinduism 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 3 pp. 72-96 • Read Eck-Ch. 4 “The Faces of God” • Hinduism papers due
Mar 10	Judaism 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 8 pp. 235-260 • Read Eck Ch. 1 “Bozeman to Benares” • Judaism papers due 	May 12	Hinduism 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 3 pp. 97-117 • present Hinduism papers • Quiz #3
Mar 17	Judaism 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 8 pp. 260-291 • present Judaism papers • Quiz #2 	May 19	Buddhism 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 4 pp.134-158 • Read Eck Ch. 5 “The Breath of God” • Buddhism papers due; • Writing Assign. #4 due
Mar 24	Christianity 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 9 pp. 295-321 • Read Eck-Ch.2 “Fron. of Encounter” • Christianity papers due 	May 26	Buddhism 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 4 pp. 158-178 • Read Eck Ch. 6 “Attention to God” • present Buddhism papers • Quiz #4
Mar 31	Christianity 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 9 pp. 336-358 • Writing Assign. #2 due • present Christianity papers 	June 2	Daoism & Confucianism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read FISHER CH. 6 • Read Eck Ch. 7 “Is Our God Listening?”
Spring Break	NO CLASS	June 9	COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM
Apr 14	MIDTERM EXAM		