

Extended Syllabus

Course Title	Religions and World Cultures	Semester	Summer, 2020
Credit	3	Enrollment Eligibility	All
Class Time	Monday to Thursday, 9:00~11:45 am		

Photo	Professor: Yong Un Choe, Ph.D.	Homepage: N/A
	E-mail: yuchoe@hanmail.net	Mobile: 010-8733-7803
	Office Hours: by Appointment	

I. Course Overview

1. Description							
<p>This course will explore a variety of major religions around the world and aim to help students to understand the meaning and value of cultural diversity. It will lead students to broaden their perspective and keep maturing their worldviews that will continue to enrich their lives. This course will emphasize introducing the humanistic approach to religion. Comprehending the spiritual wisdom that encompasses the East and West religions will motivate students to reflect on their own personal philosophy, insight and values; therefore, realizing and practicing the value of improving the lives of neighbors.</p>							
2. Prerequisites							
Students are not required to take any prior courses.							
3. Course Format (%)							
Lecture	Discussion	Experiment /Practicum	Field study	Presentations	Other		
50%	10%	N/A	N/A	30%	10%		
4. Evaluation (%)							
Mid-term Exam	Final exam	Quizzes	Presentations	Projects	Assignments	Attendance	Participation
N/A	40%	N/A	35%	N/A	N/A	15%	10%

II. Course Objectives

- 1) Understanding different religions in depth by identifying the historical and cultural factors of each.
- 2) Understanding that religion has been at the center of many global issues, conflicts and changes throughout the history, and thereby recognizing the importance of religion then and now.
- 3) Developing the empathic understanding and shared respect for different religions as well as different cultures which are important in overcoming prejudice and maintaining justice throughout our lives and society.
- 4) Understanding the spiritual wisdom of various religions of the East and West, engaging in one's personal experience and adopting the reflective mindset.

III. Course Format

“Religions and World Cultures” will involve:

- 1) Lectures
- 2) Presentations
- 3) Discussions & Debates

IV. Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Your grade for this course will be based on the following criteria.

- 1) Attendance: 15%
- 2) Class Participation: 10%
- 3) Presentation: 35%
- 4) Final Exam: 40% (**No Mid-term Exam**)

▶ **The final grade is based on an absolute grading scale, not the Sogang grading curve.**

V. Course Policies

- 1) Come to class on time
- 2) Attendance is very important.
Late: -1 / Absent: -2
- 3) Voluntary works are encouraged (1~3% advantage points).
- 4) Make-up exams will not be given.

VI. Materials and References

- Eliade, Mircea (1984), *A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. I~III*, trans. Willard Trask, The University of Chicago Press
- Carrette, Jeremy R., ed.(2005) *William James and the Varieties of Religious Experience : a Centenary Celebration*, Routledge
- De Lange, Nicholas (2003) *Judaism*, Oxford University Press
- Woodhead, Linda (2004) *An Introduction to Christianity*, Cambridge University Press
- Elias, Jamal J. (1999) *Islam*, Routledge
- Gardner, Daniel K. (2014) *Confucianism*, Oxford University Press
- Confucius (1993) *The Analects*, Oxford University Press
- Robinet, Isabelle (1997) *Taoism: Growth of a Religion*, Stanford University Press
- Lao Tzu (1964) *Tao Te Ching*, Penguin Books
- Shattuck, Cybelle (1999) *Hinduism*, Routledge
- Gethin, Rupert (1998) *The Foundations of Buddhism*, Oxford University Press
- Eliade, Mircea (1964) *Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy*, Princeton University Press
- Merton, Thomas (1968) *Zen and the Birds of Appetite*, New Directions Books
- Robert C. Fuller (2001) *Spiritual, but not religious: understanding unchurched America*, Oxford University Press
- Barbour, Ian G. (2000) *When Science Meets Religion*, HarperCollins
- Koenig, Harold G. (2008) *Medicine, Religion, and Health*, Templeton Foundation Press

VII. Course Schedule

(* Subject to change)

Class 1	Learning Objectives	Orientation and Introduction
	Topics	1) What is religion and religious studies? 2) What is the difference between religion and spirituality?

		3) Why is understanding of religion important in contemporary society?
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Group activity
	Materials (Required Readings)	N/A
Class 2	Learning Objectives	Understanding Judaism
	Topics	1) Foundations of Judaism: history and texts 2) Mishnah, Midrash, and Talmud 3) Medieval Sephardic and Ashkenazic Judaism 4) Judaism in the modern world
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	De Lange, <i>Judaism</i> Eliade, <i>A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. I</i> , Ch. 7 & 14 Eliade, <i>A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. II</i> , Ch. 25
Class 3	Learning Objectives	Understanding Christianity I
	Topics	1) The life and thought of Jesus of Nazareth in the Gospels 2) The birth and characteristics of early Christianity 3) How did the Christian canon come into being? 4) Early Church Fathers
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Watching a movie / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	Woodhead, <i>An Introduction to Christianity</i> Eliade, <i>A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. II</i> , Ch. 28 & 29 Eliade, <i>A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. III</i> , Ch. 32
Class 4	Learning Objectives	Understanding Christianity II
	Topics	1) The medieval church: from the origin to the Reformation 2) The East-West Schism 3) The Reformation: its origin, process and the socio-cultural meaning of denominational split 4) Christianity in the modern world
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	Woodhead, <i>An Introduction to Christianity</i> Eliade, <i>A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. III</i> , Ch. 34, 37 & 38
	Learning Objectives	Understanding Islam
	Topics	1) The life of Muhammad and the Shiite-Sunni Split 2) The Five Pillars of Islam 3) Sufism

Class 5		4) Jihad: Islamic 'Just War' theory or Terrorism?
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	Elias, <i>Islam</i> Eliade, <i>A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. III</i> , Ch. 33 & 35
Class 6	Learning Objectives	Understanding Taoism
	Topics	1) Laozi and Zhuangzi 2) Religious Taoism 3) Internal Alchemy practice 4) Taoism in the modern world
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	Robinet, <i>Taoism: Growth of a Religion</i> Eliade, <i>A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. II</i> , Ch. 16 & <i>Tao Te Ching</i>
Class 7	Learning Objectives	Understanding Confucianism I
	Topics	1) Historical overview 2) The essential components of Confucian thought: <i>ren</i> 仁, <i>li</i> 禮, <i>junzi</i> 君子, <i>tian</i> 天, <i>Sishu Wujing</i> 四書五經, etc 3) <i>The Analects</i>
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	Gardner, <i>Confucianism</i> Eliade, <i>A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. II</i> , Ch. 16
Class 8	Learning Objectives	Midterm Exam
	Topics	Midterm Exam
	Class Work (Methods)	Midterm Exam
Class 9	Materials (Required Readings)	Midterm Exam
	Learning Objectives	Understanding Confucianism II
	Topics	1) <i>The Analects</i> 2) Neo-Confucianism 3) The contemporary situation and influence of Confucianism in China and around the world
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Watching a movie / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	<i>The Analects</i> Gardner, <i>Confucianism</i>

Class 10	Learning Objectives	Understanding Hinduism
	Topics	1) Central concepts in Hinduism: <i>dharma, karma, samsara</i> , caste 2) Introduction to <i>Upanishads</i> and the <i>Bhagavad-Gita</i> 3) Bhakti and the Bhakti Movement 4) The contemporary situation and influence of Hinduism in India and around the world
	Class Work (Methods) Materials (Required Readings)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion <i>Shattuck, Hinduism</i> <i>Eliade, A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. I, Ch. 8 & 9</i> <i>Eliade, A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. II, Ch. 17 & 24</i>
Class 11	Learning Objectives	Understanding Buddhism I
	Topics	1) A life of the Buddha 2) The Buddha's teachings 3) Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna Buddhism
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	<i>Eliade, A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. II, Ch. 18, 19</i> <i>Gethin, The Foundation of Buddhism</i>
Class 12	Learning Objectives	Understanding Buddhism II
	Topics	1) Buddhism in China 2) Buddhism in Korea 3) Tibetan Buddhism & Japanese Buddhism 4) Buddhism in the West
	Class Work (Methods) Materials (Required Readings)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion <i>Eliade, A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. II, Ch. 23</i> <i>Eliade, A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. III, Ch. 39</i> <i>Gethin, The Foundations of Buddhism</i>
Class 13	Learning Objectives	Understanding Shamanism
	Topics	1) What is a shaman? 2) Shamanic initiations 3) Shamanic myths, rituals and symbolisms 4) Shamanism in contemporary Korea
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	<i>Eliade, Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy, Ch. 1~5, 12</i> <i>Eliade, A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. III, Ch. 31</i>
	Learning Objectives	Religion and Contemporary Spirituality

Class 14	Topics	1) The Spiritual But Not Religious phenomenon 2) Thomas Merton: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues 3) Spirituality and Health 4) Religion and Science
	Class Work (Methods)	Lecture / Presentation / Discussion
	Materials (Required Readings)	Koenig, <i>Medicine, Religion, and Health</i> Merton, <i>Zen and the Birds of Appetite</i> Barbour, <i>When Science Meets Religion</i>
Class 15	Learning Objectives	Final Exam
	Topics	Final Exam
	Class Work (Methods)	Final Exam
	Materials (Required Readings)	Final Exam

VIII. Special Accommodations

The following arrangements can be provided for students with disabilities:

- 1) Preferential assignment of seat
- 2) Assistance in learning activities through a teaching assistant
- 3) Extending the deadline for submission of assignment
- 4) Extending test hours during the final test, etc.

IX. Aid for the Challenged Students