



**UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHWESTERN**
ST. PAUL

OFFICE OF DUAL ENROLLMENT

ICS2015

World Religions

FALL 2021

SYLLABUS

Version: OLG v6.1:06/21

University of Northwestern – St. Paul
Office of Dual Enrollment
3003 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55113
de@unwsp.edu

© 2021 University of Northwestern – St. Paul

ICS2015 World Religions

University of Northwestern – St. Paul

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the beliefs and practices of the major religions of the world, including Animism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Judaism, and Islam.

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: None

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Please see “Contacting the Instructor” on the course site.

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, a successful student will be able to

- CO-1. Describe the basic teachings of the major world religions.
- CO-2. Compare and contrast how these teachings differ from Christian teachings.
- CO-3. Differentiate the actual beliefs and practices of adherents of these religions from the formal teachings.
- CO-4. Propose a model for living in a pluralistic world among the followers of other faith systems.

MATERIALS

Required Textbooks and Materials

Farhadian, Charles E. *Introducing World Religions*. Publisher: Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. Year: 2015.

Maharaj, Rabi R. *Death of a Guru*. Publisher: Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers. Year: 1984.

Sheikh, Bilquis. *I Dared to Call Him Father*. Publisher: Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books. Year: 2003.

Provided by Student

For this course, students will need access to Microsoft Office (available at no cost to students through the University of Northwestern-St. Paul), a PDF reader, and a standard internet browser. Please refer to the Tech Requirements found in the Technology Help section at the top of the course site for the full requirements.

GRADING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Course Grade Explanation

Assignments	Grade Points & Weight	
Discussion Forums	75	15
Quizzes	100	15

<i>Death of a Guru</i> Book Report	50	10
<i>I Dared to Call Him Father</i> Book Report	50	10
Visit Two Religious Sites (2)	50	10
Midterm Exam	100	15
Final Exam	150	15
Interview Report	75	10
Total	650	100

Grading Scale Percentages

A	≥ 93	B	≥ 83	C	≥ 73	D	≥ 63
A-	≥ 90	B-	≥ 80	C-	≥ 70	D-	≥ 60
B+	≥ 87	C+	≥ 77	D+	≥ 67	F	< 60

Late Work

All assignments are due as described in the course syllabus and the course site. Students are responsible for meeting assignment deadlines. Late assignments will be automatically deducted one letter grade. The assignments will drop an additional grade per day it is late, up to a 50% deduction in grade; late assignments will not be accepted for a grade beyond one week past the original deadline. Forum discussion activities must be completed on time to earn points. Late forum posts will earn zero points. Students should contact the instructor via e-mail if an extenuating circumstance exists.

Feedback Expectations

Students should expect feedback for their submitted assignments within 5 days of the assignment due date or the time of their submission, whichever is later.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND SERVICES

Guidelines and Information

Students are responsible for all content of the DE Student Handbook. The most recent version of the DE Student Handbook is located on confluence.unwsp.edu and includes the following policies and procedures:

- Deadlines for Dropping or Withdrawing
- Student/instructor Communication
- Appeals, Exceptions, Disciplinary Process, & Grievances
- Assignments (late work and plagiarism)
- Examinations
- Grading System

Instructors may have course-related expectations that further detail the policies and procedures outlined in the DE Student Handbook. Any such expectations must be provided to students in writing (e.g., handout, course site posting) prior to or at the beginning of the class.

Traditional undergraduate students enrolled in DE courses are subject to the traditional undergraduate student handbook for all non-course-specific policies and procedures.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is theft— theft of someone else’s words or ideas. It is claiming another’s work as one’s own. This would also include the following:

- Using the words or work of a former or current student in this class
- Recycling previously submitted assignments from a previous course attempt
- Using outside literature support sites such as, but not limited to, SparkNotes, Enotes or Schmoop that provide literary analysis of the texts we read throughout the semester

Students found plagiarizing are subject to discipline. The standard response ranges from loss of credit for the plagiarized assignment to earning an immediate “F” for the course to being placed on disciplinary probation. We should be committed to conducting ourselves with integrity in all things. Please refer to the DE Student Handbook for more detailed information about UNW’s honesty and integrity policies.

In every course, students are required to view the Understanding Plagiarism video and complete the Understanding Plagiarism Quiz prior to completing any of the course content. These items are part of the course orientation.

Academic Achievement

UNW students requesting academic accommodations in association with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are directed to notify [Disability Services](#) to begin the application process. Academic Achievement also provides the following: [Writing and Subject Tutoring](#), advocating, transitional skill building, [Academic Coaching](#) (organization, time management, test taking, etc.).

Contact Academic Achievement for more information: AcademicAchievement@unwsp.edu • 651-628-3316 • N4012 (Revised 06/20)

Support Services

Links to support services are available found in the Student Services section at the top of the course site.

COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Email and Announcements

Students are responsible to regularly check their Northwestern student email and the announcements in the course site in order to receive updates and information.

Attendance

Students are expected to participate in all course activities. Students must contact the faculty member in advance or as soon as possible if unable to participate in all or part of the course activities for a given week because of a medical (which includes having to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 exposure or confirmed illness), family, or work-related emergency. Students should refer to their course syllabus and/or faculty member for specific requirements. Students who do not participate in course activities and fail to withdraw from the course will receive a failing “F” grade.

Submission Standards

All written assignments should adhere to the following DE guidelines. Documents should be in the following format **unless directed differently by the syllabus or course instructor**:

- Submitted on the course site in Microsoft Word document format (.doc or .docx)
- Set in a traditional typeface 12-point font
- Double-spaced (unless the syllabus instructs otherwise)
- Set with one-inch margins
- Formatted in APA style for in-text citations and reference page (LIT1100 may ask for MLA documentation style)
- Labeled and submitted with the following information (APA papers require this information on a cover sheet, as detailed in A Pocket Style Manual): Student Name, Course Code and Title, Instructor Name, and Date.

Critical Response to Alternate Viewpoints

When students are reading or viewing course materials, they may encounter viewpoints, words, or images that their instructors would not use or endorse. Students should know that materials are chosen for their value in learning to read, write, and view critically, not because the materials are necessarily Christian.

ASSIGNMENTS

See the course site for complete details on the assignments.

Quizzes

There is a quiz over each chapter in Farhadian. There are 10 quizzes total. Each contains 10 multiple choice questions and is worth 10 points. These are open book quizzes, but students are encouraged to study the assigned reading before taking the quiz.

Discussion Forums

Discussion Forums are utilized throughout the course as a collaborative area for the students. Many of the forums require considerable preparation prior to posting in the forum, so students are advised to read the forums ad overview pages for the week by Sunday or Monday in order to enable the students to successfully complete the assignments on time. Initial posts are due by Wednesday of the week, and responses are due by Friday at 11:55 p.m. of the same week.

Exams

There are midterm and final exams in this course. Each exam includes multiple-choice and essay questions. They are not cumulative, and each covers half of the semester.

The exams are closed-book exams. You may not use your notes, textbooks, videos, course materials or assistance from any person in completing the exams. Doing so is a violation of the policy on academic integrity and is subject to disciplinary action. The exams have a 1-hour time limit.

Book Reports (2)

You are asked to complete two Book Reports throughout this course. These reports are to be 2 pages in length (double-spaced) and should address:

- One aspect or part of the book that was significant to you and why
- A bridge for dialogue with an adherent of a religion about their religion
- The difficulties one might face should they decide to leave their particular religion.

Interview and Report

Ask a follower of another religion to tell you about their beliefs. This is to be a religion covered in the course materials and the textbooks. Check your Yellow Pages Directory under Religious Organizations, or use the Internet to see what options are in your area. Check ethnic restaurants, or ask friends and relatives if they know such a person, etc. If finding such a person proves to be too difficult for you in your region, contact your professor prior to the interview. Offer other possible suggestions that might still fit the course objectives.

When doing the interview, be informal, ask polite questions, and do not argue. The purpose of this assignment is not to convince the interviewee of your beliefs but to learn about them and gather information.

As you prepare for this interview, it would be helpful for you to have mastered the material in the textbooks that discusses how to talk to someone in that religion. You will not be doing that overtly in the interview, but having those things in mind will assist you in asking the kinds of questions that will help you discuss “appropriate concepts or bridges” in your paper. This is a learning, practical exercise. Should you be led to make further contact with that person at a later date, you can always pursue these matters further then. The goal here is to become a learner before you presume to become a teacher.

After the interview, write a 3–5 page report (double-spaced) addressing:

- What you heard about the person’s beliefs.
- How this differs (if at all) from what the text teaches about that religion.
- How you perceived the person’s attitude (friendly, argumentative, etc.).
- How you felt during the interview.

Submit this report to the professor on the course site by the final week of the course.

Visits to Religious Services

For this course, students are expected to visit two different religions for worship (25 points each). You have six options for these visits. Searching online or in the yellow pages will help you locate locations. There are some course site resources with locations for Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic sites.

- Hindu Temple
- Buddhist Temple
- Sikh Gurdwara
- Jewish Synagogue
- Orthodox Church
- Islamic Mosque

Visits can be completed in small groups. Make arrangements ahead of time with the place of worship regarding your visit. The synagogue may have someone meet with you ahead of time and/or afterwards to explain your experience. Synagogues are Friday nights. The Orthodox churches are on Sundays. The Mosque meets on Fridays. The Buddhists and Hindus worship many different days and times. Be sure to dress up for each visit to show respect. Please contact the place of worship ahead of time to make sure that they will expect your visit.

After the visit, write a 2-page reflection paper. This paper can be completed in groups no larger than four and must have the names of each group member in the header, but each student needs to submit the

paper online with Moodle. Consider the questions below as you write. It is not necessary to address every question, but there should be adequate breadth to your reflection.

- a) What did you learn about the religion from the experience?
- b) How do the followers of this religion see and interpret the world?
- c) What did you observe about the place of worship/sacred space, religious practices, dress, etc.?
- d) What personal stories did you hear?
- e) What challenges did you encounter in communicating? Were there misunderstandings specifically due to culture and religious worldview? How did you work through the cultural and communication challenges?
- f) Did you learn and/or experience anything that was different than what you expected or learned from our readings?

COURSE SCHEDULE

Format

Everything needed to successfully complete this course in fifteen weeks is explained on the course site. Each assignment has been designed to work together during each week. When studying, be sure to follow the suggested format explained for each lesson.

For this course, students will receive access to each week's work as the semester progresses. There will be due dates during the week, but most weekly assignments will be due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday. Please refer to the schedule for the due dates of assignments.

Generally, for college-level work, students should expect to have an average of 9.5 hours of homework per week.

The last official class day in Week 15 varies from semester to semester. Please refer to the Semester Calendar found in the Academic Information section at the top of the course site for the actual last day of class. All course work must be completed and submitted by that day.

Due Dates

All written assignments (outlined below) are to be submitted on the course site by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sundays at the end of each week in which they are assigned, unless otherwise noted.

For any questions regarding these assignments, contact the instructor.

Orientation

- Read the Getting Started Page
- Participate in the Introductions Forum
- View and Complete Understanding Plagiarism Presentation and Quiz
- Complete Student Responsibilities Exercise

Week 1: Introducing World Religions

- Read Farhadian, Chapter 1, "The Persistence of Religion"
- View What is Religion PowerPoint
- View Anthropology of Religion PowerPoint

- View Animism PowerPoint
- View ATR (African Tribal Religions) PowerPoint
- View Video: A Walk on Baba's Way (18:39)
- View Native American Religions PowerPoint

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit Quiz 1 (open book)

Week 2: Zoroastrianism

- Read Zoroastrianism -- The History Channel
- View Zoroastrianism PowerPoint
- View one of the following online videos:
 - View Video: People of the Flames - Zoroastrianism (50:30)
 - View Video: The Zoroastrian Journey (9:19)
- Read one of the following articles online:
 - Why is India's wealthy Parsi community vanishing? -- BBC News
 - Zoroastrianism needs to adapt its archaic laws – or die -- The Guardian
 - Zoroastrians Keep the Faith, and Keep Dwindling -- The New York Times
- Read Dating to Save Your Tiny Religion From Extinction -- The Atlantic
- Explore Zoroastrian Matrimonial Site

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum

Week 3: Hinduism

- Read Farhadian, Chapter 2
- View Video: A History of Hindu India (23:11)
- View Hinduism PowerPoint
- View Essentials of Faith: Hinduism (23:55)
- View Hindu Temple Tour PowerPoint
- Read *Death of a Guru* (an assigned supplemental text)
- Read Should Yoga be Banned from Public Schools as a Religious Activity?
- Read Comparison of Hinduism and Christianity
- View Graham Staines and his family - Martyrs in 1999 PowerPoint

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit Death of a Guru Paper
- Submit Quiz 2 (open book)
- Submit Hindu Temple Paper, if you choose to visit one of these sites (see instructions)

Week 4: Buddhism

- Read Farhadian, Chapter 3
- View Buddhism PowerPoint
- View Video: Variations on Buddhism: Theravada vs. Mahayana vs. Vajrayana Buddhism (34:23)
- View Video: Essentials of Faith: Buddhism (23:55)
- Read Comparison of Buddhism and Christianity
- View Buddhist Temples in MN (Pictures)
- View Visiting Buddhist Temples in MN

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit Quiz 3 (open book)
- Submit Buddhist Temple Paper, if you choose to visit one of these sites (see instructions)

Week 5: Jainism and Sikhism

- Read Farhadian, Chapters 4 and 5
- View Jainism PowerPoint
- View Video: India's Jains (7:37)
- Read Comparison of Jainism and Christianity
- View Sikhism PowerPoint
- View Video: Sikh History (22:30)
- View Video: Sikhism: The Guru's Wisdom (19:41)
- Read Comparison of Sikhism and Christianity

Due on Friday

- Submit Quiz 4 (open book)
- Submit Quiz 5 (open book)
- Submit Sikh Gurdwara Paper, if you choose to visit one of these sites (see instructions)

Week 6: Taoism, Confucianism, and Traditional Chinese Religions

- Read Farhadian, Chapter 6
- View Confucianism and Taoism PowerPoint
- View Video: Confucius: China's Guide to a Moral Life (3:01)
- View Video: World Religions: Taoism (Daoism) (13:43)
- View Video: The Three Teachings of Ancient Chinese—Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism in China (16:32)

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit Quiz 6 (open book)

Week 7: Shintoism

- Shintoism PowerPoint
- Video: What Is The Ancient Japanese Religion Shinto? (4:02)
- Video: What the Ancients Teach us (Japan) (3:00)

Week 8: Midterm Exam

- Read Midterm Exam Study Guide

Due on Friday

- Submit Midterm Exam (closed book)

Week 9: Judaism, Part 1

- Read Farhadian, Chapter 7
- View Judaism PowerPoint
- View: Essentials of Faith: Judaism (23:48)
- View Video: The Power of the Word with Yakob Damkani (9:36)
- View Video: The Long Search (23:30)
- View Video: Adon Olam(4:50) (Also, see the lyrics for an English translation)
- Read The Story of the Growth of Israel Through Maps and the Displacement of the Palestinians with Advancing Israeli settlements in the West Bank

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit Quiz 7 (open book)

Week 10: Judaism, Part 2

- Finish Reading Why Me? by Jacob Damkani (found in Week 9)
- Read 11 Facts about the Holocaust
- View Video: Educating the Christian World about the Holocaust (9:07)
- View A Christian Perspective of Messianic Prophecies in the Tenak (Old Testament) PowerPoint
- Read What Do Jews believe About Jesus?
- View Video: Methodist Pastor converts to Judaism (9:43)
- View Orthodox Rabbi Herb Opalek's Conversion PowerPoint

- View Video: The Conversion of Rabbi Zev (36:16)
- View Video: The Hiding Place - a film about Jewish-Christian relationships during the Holocaust (2:26:24)

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit Synagogue Paper, if you choose to visit one of these sites (see instructions)

Week 11: Christianity

- Read Farhadian, Chapter 8
- View Christianity PowerPoint
- View Video: Essentials of Faith: Christianity (23:53)
- View Is Jesus the Only Way? PowerPoint
- View Engel Scale PowerPoint
- View Christianity and Cultural Engagement PowerPoint
- Read So What's the Difference Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy?
- View Video Interview: You Lost Me: Why Millennials Are Leaving the Church (18:01)
- View Video: You Lost Me by David Kinnaman (2:54)
- View Video: Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus | | Spoken Word (4:03)

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit Quiz 8 (open book)
- Submit Orthodox Church Paper, if you choose to visit one of these sites (see instructions)

Week 12: Islam, Part 1

- Read Farhadian, Chapter 9
- View Islam PowerPoint
- Video: Essentials of Faith: Islam (23:26)
- View Colors of Islam PowerPoint
- Read How Shall We Love Our Muslim Neighbor?
- Read Morocco Declaration: Muslim Nations Should Protect Christians from Persecution
- Read Why Muslims are the World's Fastest Growing Religious Group
- Read Bilquis Sheikh, I Dared To Call Him Father
- Read The Message of Islam vs. The Gospel of Jesus

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit Quiz 9 (open book)

Week 13: Islam, Part 2

- Finish Reading Bilquis Sheikh, I Dared To Call Him Father (in Week 12)
- Read Do Muslims and Christians Worship the Same God?
- Read Jesus: A Summary of the Points About Which Islam and Christianity Agree and Disagree
- Read Why are So Many Westerners Converting to Islam?
- Read Keith Ellison explains how and why he became a Muslim
- View Video: Why I converted to Islam (3:32)
- Read Waging Peace on Islam
- View Video: More than Dreams - Khalil of Egypt (28:54)
- View Video: More than Dreams - Khosrow (29:37)
- Read Voice of the Christian Martyrs - Iran

Due on Wednesday

- Submit Original Post to the Discussion Forum

Due on Friday

- Submit Replies to the Discussion Forum
- Submit I Dared to Call Him Father Paper
- Submit Mosque Visit Paper, if you choose to visit one of these sites (see instructions)

Week 14: New Religious Movements: New Age, Secular Humanism, Baha'i

- Read Farhadian, Chapter 10
- View The Search - Comparison of New Age Religions and Christianity
- View Secular Humanism PowerPoint
- View Video: Essentials of Faith: Humanism (23:50)
- Read Secular Humanist Affirmations
- Read How Oxford and Peter Singer drove me from Atheism to God
- View Video: The Closing of the American Mind (1:25:26)
- View Baha'i PowerPoint
- View Video: The Baha'i Faith: Unity in Diversity (22:40)
- View Video: Conversion from Christianity to Baha'i (2:07)
- View Video: Conversion from Baha'i to Christianity (13:29)

Due on Friday

- Submit Interview of a Member of a World Religion
- Submit Quiz 10 (open book)

Week 15: Final Exam

The final week varies in length based on the semester. Please refer to the Semester Calendars found in the Academic Information section at the top of the course site for details.

- Read Study Guide for Final Exam

Due on Last Day of Class

- Submit Final Exam (closed book)