

World Religions

COURSE DESIGNATOR MADR 3006

Language of Instruction English

NUMBER OF CREDITS 2 credits

Contact Hours # hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the basic precepts and cultures of the world's major religions through reading, reflection, study, and dialogue. The intended outcome, more than gaining an in-depth understanding of each faith theologically, is to encourage religious tolerance and promote the celebration of theological diversity among the peoples of the Earth.

The major religions to be explored will be: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Students will be invited to claim their own faith, while embracing openness to learn from all faiths.

Equal time will be dedicated to each faith, however, because the Iberian culture has been historically shaped by the influence of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, a special unit will be dedicated to the blending of these three traditions. Students will be encouraged to travel to such Holy cities as Toledo, Cordoba, and Granada to taste the full flavor of religious syncretism within Spain.

INSTRUCTOR

COURSE GOAL

LEARNING OUTCOMES

METHODOLOGY

COURSE PREREQUISITES

REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

Smith, Huston (SWR) *The World's Religions (a Revised and Updated Edition of The Religions of Man.)*

Assorted Articles To Be Distributed in Class

Required Films (videos) to watch outside of class. These will be viewed as a class at the Foundation.

Gandhi
Seven Years in Tibet
The Prince of Egypt

GRADING

CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Grading Rubric		
A	95+	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A- B+	90-94 86-89	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B	83-85	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
B-	80-82	
C+	76-79	
C	73-75	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	66-69	
D	60-65	
F	<59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of how grades are weighted:

Class participation	10%
Mid-term examination	30%
Final examination	30%
Term paper	30%
Overall Grade	100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
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WEEK 2
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WEEK 3
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WEEK 4
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WEEK 5
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WEEK 6
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WEEK 7

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WEEK 8

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WEEK 9

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WEEK 10

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WEEK 11

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WEEK 12

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WEEK 13

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ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student’s responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.