

Course Syllabus:

REL 320: American Religious Traditions

Course Description: Examines the formation, development, and interaction of major American religious traditions (indigenous, African American, Asian American, and Euro-American).

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Chas. H. Barfoot

Contact Info: cbarfoot@asu.edu

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will:

Be knowledgeable about six large, broad categories of uniquely American religious thought.

Be able to use interdisciplinary approaches to the study of religion--primarily sociology and history.

Be able to research a particular religious tradition in each of the six broad categories of American religious thought.

Required Textbook:

Title: *American Religious Traditions, custom preliminary edition*—an interactive textbook

Author: Charles H. Barfoot

ISBN: 978-1-7935-9402-0

Pricing: \$34.95

Availability: 10/3/22

Can be purchased directly from publisher here:

<https://store.cognella.com/70708-1A-001>

ASU bookstore can email questions and purchase orders at Cognella's Operations Department here: orders@cognella.com

Recommended Reading (Not Required):

Finke & Stark, *The Churching of America, 1776-2005*. ISBN: 978-0813535531.

Course Access:

Your ASU courses can be accessed by both my.asu.edu [Links to an external site.](#) and asu.instructure.com; bookmark both in the event that one site is down.

Computer Requirements:

This is a fully online course; therefore, it requires a computer with internet access and the following technologies:

- Web browsers ([Chrome](#) [Links to an external site.](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#) [Links to an external site.](#), or [Safari](#) [Links to an external site.](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) [Links to an external site.](#) (free)
- Webcam, microphone, headset/earbuds, and speaker
- Microsoft Office ([Microsoft 365 is free](#) [Links to an external site.](#) for all currently-enrolled ASU students)

- Reliable broadband internet connection (DSL or cable) to stream videos

Note: A smartphone, iPad, Chromebook, etc. will not be sufficient for completing your work in ASU Online courses. While you will be able to access course content with mobile devices, you must use a computer for all assignments, quizzes, and virtual labs.

Grading Based on Total Points Earned:

Grade	Points
A+	1000--980
A	979--940
A-	939--900
B+	899--880
B	879--840
B-	800--839
C+	800-780
C	779--700
D	699--600
E	<600

Note: As of Spring 2019, I can no longer write letters of recommendation except for the following requirements: *students must have taken a minimum of two classes with me. And at least one of the classes must have earned an A+.* I am continually bombarded with letter requests but due to a heavy teaching and writing schedule it is simply impossible for me to keep up with the demand for letters that fall outside of these two requirements.

Papers Guidelines for The Six Modules:

When writing papers that deal with the Founder, Form of Government, Major beliefs, Growing or Dying, please use the required paper guidelines:

- Use standard 1-inch margins
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font
- Double space
- Write 250--300 words
- Use in-text parenthetical citations for quotes or simply cite the online source that you used
- Any act of academic dishonesty such as copying a source word for word or any act of plagiarism results in instant failure of the Module

Assignment due dates follow Arizona Standard time.

Click the following link to access the [Time Converter](#) [Links to an external site.](#) to ensure you account for the difference in Time Zones. **Note:** Arizona does not observe daylight savings time.

Late or Missed Assignments:

Notify the instructor BEFORE an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and you are unable to submit the assignment on time.

Follow the appropriate University policies to request an [accommodation for religious practices](#) [Links to an external site.](#) or to accommodate a missed assignment [due to University-sanctioned activities](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

Help:

I cannot assist you with technical help. For technical support, use the Help icon in the black global navigation menu in your Canvas course or call the ASU Help Desk at [+1-\(855\) 278-](tel:+18552782772)

[5080](#). Representatives are available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student Success:

- check the course daily
- read announcements
- read and respond to course email messages as needed
- complete assignments by the due dates specified
- communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track
- access [ASU Online Student Resources](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

Communicating With the Instructor:

Email questions to your instructor. Email him directly--not through Canvas--at cbarfoot@asu.edu

Email:

ASU email is an [official means of communication](#) [Links to an external site.](#) among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.

ASU Online Course Policies:

View the [ASU Online Course Policies](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

Syllabus Disclaimer:

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.

Title IX:

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/>

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

Accessibility Statement:

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Disability Resource Center (DRC) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and accommodations (Links to an external site.). Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. Students who believe they have a current and essential need for disability accommodations are responsible for requesting accommodations and providing qualifying documentation (Links to an external site.) to the DRC. Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

Qualified students who wish to request an accommodation for a disability should contact their campus DRC.

Tempe Campus

<http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/> (Links to an external site.)

480-965-1234 (Voice)

480-965-9000 (TTY)

West Campus

<http://www.west.asu.edu/drc/> (Links to an external site.)

University Center Building (UCB), Room 130

602-543-8145 (Voice)

Polytechnic Campus

<http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/> (Links to an external site.)

480-727-1165 (Voice)

480-727-1009 (TTY)

Downtown Phoenix Campus and ASU Online

<http://campus.asu.edu/downtown/DRC> (Links to an external site.)

University Center Building, Suite 160

602-496-4321 (Voice)

602-496-0378 (TTY)

Course Outline:

Introduction

Module 1: Restorationism

- A. Seventh-day Adventist Church**
- B. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**
- C. The Christian Church or Disciples of Christ**

Module 2: Pentecostalism

- A. The Church of God in Christ**
- B. The Foursquare Church**
- C. The Metropoltian Community Church**

Module 3: Mysticism

- A. Kabbalah**
- B. Sufism**
- C. The Native American Church**

Module 4: Liberalism

- A. Unitarian Universalism**
- B. The United Church of Christ**
- C. Reform Judaism**

Module 5: Evangelicalism

- A. Hillsong**
- B. Joel Osteen**
- C. Willow Creek**

Module 6: Mytaphysical

- A. Swedenborgian Church**
- B. Christian Science**
- C. Unity**

Conclusion

