



SCHOOL OF
Historical, Philosophical
& Religious Studies

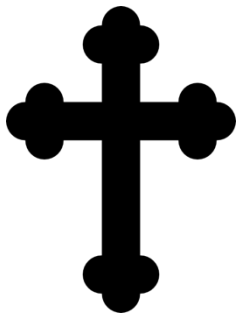
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Religions of the World (REL 100)

Spring B 2024

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Office hours: (Zoom or in-person, by appointment)

Zoom link: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/2404496583>

NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS IS STILL A DRAFT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims at familiarizing students with the major religious traditions of the world. Specific attention is given to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Navajo religion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete all assignments, who attend class consistently, and who engage with the material will be able to respond intelligently to the following questions:

- What are the core beliefs and practices of these six religions of the world?
- What are the significant texts of these major religions of the world?
- How does the study of these religions inform your understanding of global cultures, communities, belief systems, and identities different than your own?

SKILL SET ACQUISITION

Students who comply with all course requirements will be able to:

- Apply various methodological approaches to the academic study of religion to the investigation of the world's religions.
- Develop a capacity for respectful and critical engagement with religious ideas, practices, belief systems, and communities which differ from their own commitments, practices, and beliefs.
- Develop critical thinking skills such that they will be able to understand and interact with diverse religious ideas and practices.
- Be able to transfer such skills to engagements with, e.g., diverse cultural, philosophical, and political ideas and practices.

COURSE READINGS

Prothero, Stephen. *Religion Matters: An Introduction to the World's Religions*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2020.

- The required material for this course is provisioned as an e-book and made available at a discounted rate significantly cheaper than if purchased directly from the publisher. If you wish to take advantage of this discounted group rate, no additional action is needed. Following the drop/add period, a charge of \$40.00, plus tax, will post to your student account under the header "Bkstr Publisher Negotiated Rate." If you would rather purchase the material from an alternate choice, you may choose to opt out of the program by using this link: <https://includedcp.follett.com/1230>. Enter your ASU e-mail address AS IT APPEARS IN THE ASU DIRECTORY (<http://asu.edu/directory>), then follow the instructions provided. Be aware that if you do opt-out, your access to the e-book will be discontinued. If you'd like to purchase a discounted, supplemental print version of the text to accompany the e-book, you can do so on the Bookstore website (<https://bookstore.asu.edu>) by searching for this ISBN: 9780393444193.
- To access the e-book and set it up for the InQuizitive assignments (required), follow the instructions [on this Google doc](#).

Additional assigned videos will be posted on Canvas.

COURSE POLICIES

Learning, not converting

This course takes a critical, academic approach to the study of some of the great faith traditions of the world. It will focus on religions that have reached global prominence and/or that continue to influence a large part of the world's population. This class does not aim to challenge, threaten, intimidate, coerce or “convert” any of the members of the class to a specific religion or faith tradition, nor to convince them of the truth or falsehood of any of the faith traditions. Instead, my hope is that students will come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of how each religion attempts to answer the most basic and profound questions that all human beings face.

Respect

There will be a wide range of faith traditions and faith experiences in the classroom, and since we will be interacting with people of other faith traditions, members of the class will be expected to treat others with an attitude of respect, courtesy, and confidentiality.

GRADING

A grade of A represents work of outstanding quality; it indicates that the student has shown initiative, skill, and thoroughness and has displayed originality in thinking. A grade of B is awarded for work of high quality, well above average. The grade of C indicates average work and satisfactory completion of course requirements. The grade of D indicates minimally satisfactory completion of course requirements. A grade of E indicates that one's coursework is unsatisfactory, and no credit is given.

A+	96.5-100%	B-	79.5-82.5%
A	92.5-96.5%	C+	76.5-79.5%
A-	89.5-92.5%	C	69.5-76.5%
B+	86.5-89.5%	D	59.5-69.5%
B	82.5-86.5%	E	0-59.5%

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Weight
Class Attendance/Participation	10%
InQuizitive Assignments (x8)	15%
Religious Literacy Quizzes (x6)	25%
Canvas Assignments	20%
Personal Interview/Religious Site Visit Essay	20%
Final Exam	10%

1. Attendance/Participation (10%)

- a. **Expectations:** I expect students: 1) to attend class regularly and on time and 2) regularly participate in class through iClicker on your device of choice. If you do these, you can expect full credit for attendance.
- b. **Taking Attendance:** iClicker is required for this class. To set up your iClicker account and use it for this class, see [this Google doc](#) for instructions. I will keep track of your attendance through your participation in iClicker questions. However, each student will be allowed *three* unexcused absences, no questions asked.
- c. **Participation:** Part of your grade will be measured simply by your participation in iClicker questions (whether you get them right or wrong). But 1-2 iClicker questions each class will be graded, and your performance on these graded questions will affect your point total for this portion of your grade.
- d. **Excused Absences:** I will excuse absences due to illness (with doctor's note), family emergency, university-sanctioned events, religious holidays (a list can be found here <https://eoss.asu.edu/cora/holidays>); or work performed in the line of duty. If you know about an excused absence in advance, you must turn in any assigned work beforehand. In the case of an emergency or an illness, I will accept late work.
- e. **What to do when you miss a class:** Your absence will be considered unexcused unless you provide me with evidence that it should be excused. You are responsible for the following: 1) advising the instructor if the absence should be excused, 2) getting notes from a competent note-taking classmate, 3) asking the instructor if you have questions about your classmate's notes, and 4) not complaining when you are penalized for being absent.

2. InQuizitive Assignments (20%)

InQuizitive is an adaptive quizzing tool with gaming elements developed by W.W. Norton, the publisher of our textbook. It works on computers, tablets, and smartphones and integrates with the Norton Ebook Reader and other digital products. Your ebook access will automatically entitle you to InQuizitive access. You will need to create a Norton account, enter your registration code, and enter our Student Set ID number (617720). If you have further questions about this, contact Norton Support at <http://support.wwnorton.com>.

If you complete the entirety of each InQuizitive assignment, you will receive full credit. There will be one InQuizitive Assignment for every unit of the class. Because Norton's system is not integrated with ASU's Canvas and grades must be manually posted to Canvas, your *overall average* for these will be posted on Canvas *at the end of the semester*.

2. Religious Literacy Quizzes (25%)

There will be six religious literacy quizzes which you will complete online on Canvas. The point of the quizzes is to test assess you on your comprehension of terms and concepts from the readings and lectures.

These quizzes will be Multiple Choice and True/False and must be taken on Canvas by the scheduled date. A study guide will be provided for each.

3. Canvas Assignments (15%)

For each religion we study, there will be at least one short written assignment on Canvas. Instructions for the requirements of each assignment will be included with the prompt.

4. Personal Interview/Religious Site Visit Essay (20%)

For this assignment, you have **two options**. You can either **1)** visit a place of worship/prayer of one of the religions we've studied (not your own); or **2)** interview a person who belongs to a different religious tradition (again, a religion different than your own). For each option, you must then write a short paper (approximately 3 pages) reflecting on the experience. I will provide more details on these assignments later in the semester.

5. Final Exam (10%)

The final exam (taken in person) will be cumulative, covering material from throughout the semester. It will consist of multiple choice, matching, definitions of terms, and/or short answer questions about important terms, concepts, persons, and communities discussed in the course. A study guide will be provided.

Late or Missed Assignments

Notify me BEFORE an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and the assignment will not be submitted on time. Please follow the appropriate University policies to request an [accommodation for religious practices](#) or to accommodate a missed assignment due to University-sanctioned activities. Published assignment due dates (Arizona Mountain Standard time) are firm, if you want to receive full credit. I do accept unexcused late work, but with a penalty of -5% off/day late, capped at -25%.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Outside of the textbook, assigned videos and podcasts are included here and on Canvas as hyperlinks.

Module	Readings and Videos	Assignments
Module 1: The Academic Study of Religion	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prothero, 3-25 Lecture videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Why Study Religion?● The Academic Study of Religion● What is Religion?	Discussion Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Personal Introductions (3/13)● DB #1 (3/15) Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● InQuizitive Chapter 1 (3/14)

Module 2: Hinduism: The Way of Devotion	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prothero, 26-77 Lecture videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Hinduism? ● The Big Ideas of Hinduism ● Origins of Hinduism ● Hindu Stories and Hindu Ideas ● Living as a Hindu ● Hindu Diversity Other videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shashi Tharoor Interview on Why I am a Hindu 	Discussion Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DB #2 (3/20) Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● InQuizitive Chapter 2 (3/19) ● Hinduism RL Quiz (3/20)
Module 3: Buddhism: The Way of Awakening	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prothero, 79-127 Lecture videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Buddhism? ● The Four Noble Truths ● Living as a Buddhist ● Buddhist History ● Diverse Expressions of Buddhism ● Buddhism Today Other videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “The Buddha” (through 1:06:14) ● “Faith and Reason: Pema Chödrön” (through 32:51) 	Discussion Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DB #3 (3/27) Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● InQuizitive Chapter 3 (3/26) ● Buddhism RL Quiz (3/27)
Module 4: Judaism: The Way of Exile and Return	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prothero, 170-223 Lecture videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Judaism? ● Jewish Stories and Jewish Ideas ● Transformations of Jewish History ● Modern Judaism ● The Life of Torah ● Living as a Jew Today 	Discussion Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DB #4 (4/2) Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● InQuizitive Chapter 5 (4/1) ● Judaism RL Quiz (4/2)

	Other videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elie Wiesel interview (starting at 11:22) 	
Module 5: Christianity: The Way of Salvation	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prothero, 225-291 Lecture videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Christianity? ● The Big Ideas of Christianity ● The Origins of Christianity ● Transformations of Christian History ● Christianity in America ● Living as a Christian Today Other videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shane Claiborne interview 	Discussion Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DB #5 (4/8) Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● InQuizitive Chapter 6 (4/7) ● Christianity RL Quiz (4/8)
Module 6: Islam: The Way of Submission	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prothero, 293-339 Lecture videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Islam? ● The Five Pillars of Islam ● The Origins of Islam ● Islamic Scripture: Qur'an and Hadith ● The Muslim Way of Life ● Transformations of Islamic History ● Living as a Muslim Today Other videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "Koran by Heart" (beginning through 31:26) ● One on One: Omar Suleiman 	Discussion Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DB #6 (4/14) Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● InQuizitive Chapter 7 (4/13) ● Islam RL Quiz (4/14)

Module 7: Navajo Religion: The Way of Beauty	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prothero, 441-489 Lecture videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indigenous Religions ● The Navajo Way ● Practicing Navajo Religion ● Navajo Religion Today Other videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interview with Navajo Sandpainter Herbert Ben ● Walk in Beauty ● Go out and Stretch when you Hear the First Thunder 	Discussion Boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DB #7 (4/21) Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● InQuizitive Chapter 10 (4/20) ● Navajo RL Quiz (4/21)
Module 8: Religion and No Religion	Lecture videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Atheism and Irreligion ● The Present and Future of Religion 	Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● InQuizitive Chapter 11 (4/25) ● Personal Interview (4/20) ● Final Exam (4/26)

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Drop and Add Dates/Withdrawals

This course adheres to a compressed schedule and may be part of a sequenced program, therefore, there is a limited timeline to [drop or add the course](#). Consult with your advisor and notify your instructor to add or drop this course. If you are considering a withdrawal, review the following ASU policies: [Withdrawal from Classes](#), [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal](#), and a [Grade of Incomplete](#).

Grade Appeals

Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute is not resolved with the Instructor, the student may appeal to the department chair per the [University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades](#).

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>. Additionally, required behavior standards are listed in the [Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedures, Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications policy](#), and outlined by the [Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#). Anyone in violation of these policies is subject to sanctions.

[Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference](#) by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process per [Instructional Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#). Appropriate online behavior (also known as netiquette) is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board posts may be deleted by the instructor.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts [incident reports](#) from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Prohibition of Commercial Note Taking Services

In accordance with [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services](#), written permission must be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of notes. Notes must have the Notetaker's name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. The feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available.

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. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended (ADAAA) of 2008, 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. 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 to the DRC. Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

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/faqs>.

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. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>.

Changes in the course syllabus

The course syllabus is subject to change if the instructor deems it necessary in order to accomplish the course objectives. Students will be notified in writing of all substantive changes to the course syllabus.