

COURSE SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE

RELS 100 – CRN 20853 – Spring 2013
RELIGIONS OF THE MODERN WORLD

Ms. JACOBSON

Imperial Valley College

Instructor: Rev. Ms. Suzi Jacobson

Contact: e-mail: suzi.jacobson@imperial.edu phone: (760) 791-2526
voice or text

Meetings: Monday evening – Room 403 6:30-9:40 PM

I Course Description

RELS 100 is an introduction to various contemporary religions of the world. We will study the basic beliefs, history and traditions of the world's major religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Confucianism and Daoism. Objectivity and impartiality are important characteristics of our study. We seek to *understand* the world's religions rather than evaluate them. Required texts:

- **Living Religions**, Eighth Ed. by Mary Pat Fisher – Pearson/Prentice Hall Publisher, 2011
- **God Is Not One**, Stephen Prothero, New York – Harper One, 2010

II Student Learning Objectives *At the conclusion of the course students will be able to:*

- Identify the origin, characteristic beliefs, practices, and terminology unique to the religions we study.
- Identify and discuss the nature of religious revelation
- Master techniques for reading and interpreting sacred texts.
- Recognize the relationship between religion and culture and the relevance of religious belief and experience to modern life and the human condition.

III Course Requirements

Students are expected to **attend all lectures, arrive on time, and to remain for the entire class period.** Lectures and class discussions assume familiarity with text materials and students should be prepared with questions or comments intended to clarify or expand on the content of the readings.

IV Your Attendance is expected

- because participation in class is an important learning opportunity;
- because lectures, presentations, and examinations will contain material supplementing assigned readings;
- and because your learning will suffer when you are not present.

STUDENTS WHO MISS CLASS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MATERIAL COVERED IN THEIR ABSENCE, INCLUDING OTHER STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS.

V Course Development and Grading

There will be short written assignments, homework, quizzes a *research paper/project (P&P)*, a midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam.

Research P&Ps will be due throughout the semester at different times

Both a written paper and a GROUP presentation in class will be required.

| Grade Structure | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Class participation & attendance | 5% |
| Writing Assignments & Homework | 25% |
| Research P & P | 25% |
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Midterm Exam | 10% |
| Final Exam | 10% |

VI Grade Distribution

Course grade will be a percentage of points earned divided by points available. A 94-100%; A- 90-93%; B+ 87-89%; B 84-86%; B- 80-83%; C+ 77-79%; C 74-76; C- 70-73%; D 60-69%; F less than or equal to 59%.

VII IVC Drop Policy

A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class may be dropped by the instructor immediately following that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students enrolled. Instructors are expected to take a student's attendance record into account in computing grades. A student may be excluded from further attendance in a class during any semester when absences after the close of registration have exceeded the number of class hours which the class meets per week; ***which means that since this class meets once a week for three hours, if you are absent more than once you may be dropped from the class.*** A student who is tardy three times may be considered as having been absent once. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and attendance upon field trips will not be counted as absences. If you stop attending class and intend to drop it **it is your responsibility to drop the class!**

VIII Academic Integrity

Academic integrity includes a commitment neither to engage in nor tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, and facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty. *Sanctions for breaches of academic integrity may range from F for the assignment to F for the course.*

*****CELL PHONES**, pagers and/or other disruptive communication devices must be **turned off** and placed out of site for the duration of the class. Violation of this policy will result in *an immediate pop quiz for the entire class.*

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) office as soon as possible. The DSPS office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 760-355-6312.

SCHEDULE – RELS 100

| | |
|--------|---|
| Jan 14 | Overview – Religious Responses – Read LR* Ch 1 & GINO** Introduction pp. 1-24 |
| Jan 21 | MLK HOLIDAY – No Class |
| Jan 28 | Judaism I Read – LR* Ch 8 & GINO** Ch. 7 Judaism writing assignment due |
| Feb 4 | Judaism II Read – LR Ch 8 & GINO Ch. 7 Guest Speaker: Mr. Wayne Harvie |
| Feb 11 | Christianity I Read – LR Ch 9 & GINO Ch. 2 <i>Students present – Judaism – P&P</i> Christianity writing assignment due |
| Feb 18 | PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY – No Class |
| Feb 25 | Christianity II Read – LR Ch 9 & GINO Ch. 2 <i>Students present – Christianity – P&P</i> |
| Mar 4 | Islam I Read – LR Ch 10 & GINO Ch. 1 Islam writing assignment due |
| Mar 11 | Islam II Read – LR Ch 10 & GINO Ch. 1 <i>Students present – Islam – P&P</i> |
| Mar 18 | Sikhism Read – LR Ch 11, Sikhism Sikhism writing assignment due |
| Mar 25 | Daoism Read – LR Ch 6, Daoism and Confucianism + GINO Ch. 8 MIDTERM EXAM (covering Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism & Daoism) |
| Apr 1 | SPRING BREAK – No Class |
| Apr 8 | Daoism Read – LR Ch 6, Daoism and Confucianism + GINO Ch. 3 Daoism/Confucianism writing assignment due |
| Apr 15 | Hinduism I Read – LR Ch 3, Hinduism + GINO Ch.4 <i>Students present – Hinduism – P&P</i> Hinduism writing assignment due |
| Apr 22 | Hinduism II Read – LR Ch 3, Hinduism |
| Apr 29 | Buddhism Read – LR Ch 5, Buddhism + GINO Ch. 5 <i>Students present Buddhism – P&P</i> Buddhism writing assignment due |
| May 6 | FINAL EXAM (Comprehensive, i.e., covering every single thing you've learned in this class!) |

*LR = *Living Religions* by Mary Pat Fisher **GINO = *God Is Not One* by Stephen Prothero