

COURSE SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE
RELS 100 – CRN 20276 – Spring 2014
RELIGIONS OF THE MODERN WORLD

MS. JACOBSON

Imperial Valley College

Instructor: Rev. Mrs. Suzi Jacobson

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be sure to tell me who you are!*

Meetings: Wednesday evening – Room 2727 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, and Sikhism. 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**, by Mary Pat Fisher – Pearson/Prentice Hall Publisher, 2013, ed. 8
- **God Is Not One**, Stephen Prothero, New York – Harper One, 2011

II Course Requirements

- Students are expected to attend all lectures, arrive on time, and to remain for the entire class period. If you miss more than one class session, you will be dropped.
- Students who miss class are responsible for material covered in their absence, including other students' presentations.

III Course Development and Grading

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

- P&Ps will be due at different times throughout the semester.
- Both an INDIVIDUAL written paper and a GROUP presentation in class will be required.

Grade Structure	
Writing Assignments & homework	25%
Research P & P	30%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	10%

IV 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%.

V 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. 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. If you stop attending class and intend to drop, **it is your responsibility to drop the class!**

VI Academic Integrity

Academic integrity includes a commitment neither to engage in nor tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include (but are not limited to) cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet sources without citation, 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.*

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

1. Identify the origin, characteristic beliefs, practices and terminology unique to the world's five major religions and indigenous sacred ways. (ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)
2. Identify and discuss the nature of religious revelation and interpretation of sacred texts. (ILO2, ILO4)
3. Recognize the relationship between religion and culture and the relevance of religious belief and experience to modern life and the human condition. (ILO2, ILO5)

VIII Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

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 Mel Wendrick Access Center (Building 2100) (760) 355-6313 or (760) 355-4174 (TDD)



Cell Phones, pagers and/or other disruptive 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.**

SCHEDULE – RELS 100- Spring 2014

Jan 22	What is Religion & why should we study it?	
Jan 29	Religious Responses	Read – LR* pp. 1-29
Feb 5	Hinduism I	Read – LR pp. 73-110 <i>Individual Hinduism research paper due</i>
Feb 12	Hinduism II	Read – GINO* pp. 131-164 Writing Assign #1 due <i>Student group presentation</i>
Feb 19	Buddhism I	Read – LR pp. 135-149 <i>Individual Buddhism research paper due</i>
Feb 26	Buddhism II	Read – GINO pp. 169-193 Writing Assign #2 due <i>Student group presentation</i>
Mar 5	Daoism	Read – LR pp.184-202 Read – GINO pp. 279-291
Mar 12	MIDTERM EXAM You will take the exam on Blackboard during class hours, 6:30-9:40 PM	
Mar 19	Judaism I	Read – GINO pp. 243-267 <i>Individual Judaism research paper due</i>
Mar 26	Judaism II	Read – LR pp. 239-259 & 262-273 Writing Assign #3 due <i>Student group presentation</i>
Apr 2	Christianity I	Read – LR 298-318 “Jesus” Read – GINO pp. 65-73 <i>Individual Christianity research paper due</i>
Apr 9	Christianity II	Read – LR 318-339 “The Church” Writing Assign #4 due <i>Student group presentation</i>
Apr 16	Islam I	Read – LR pp. 381-404 <i>Individual Islam research paper due</i>
Apr 23	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	
Apr 30	Islam II	Read – GINO pp. 50-63 Writing Assign #5 due <i>Student group presentation</i>
May 7	Sikhism	Read – LR pp. 440-463
May 14	FINAL EXAM – Comprehensive – covering every single thing you have learned in this class!	

*LR = *Living Religions* by Mary Pat Fisher

**GINO = *God Is Not One* by Stephen Prothero