

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2020	Instructor Name:	Walter Colace
Course Title & #:	RELS 100 Religions of the Modern World	Email:	walter.colace@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20526	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	403	Office #:	Online
Class Dates:	Feb18, 2020– Jun 12,2020	Office Hours:	11:05 AM - 11:35 AM
Class Days:	T/R	Office Phone #:	760-337-9400
Class Times:	9:40 AM – 11:05 Am	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3.0		

Course Description

An introduction to the various contemporary religions of the world with an emphasis on their historical development. Study of the basic beliefs in religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. (CSU, UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being 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)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the major beliefs of Hinduism during Vedic and modern periods.
2. Describe the major developments of Buddhism.
3. Explain the basic teachings of Sikhism.
4. Describe the basic beliefs of Judaism.
5. Describe the basic beliefs of Christianity.
6. Describe the basic beliefs of Islam.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Jeffrey Brodd 2018. Invitation to World's Religions 3rd Edition. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780190690816.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Written/Reading Assignments- There will be weekly reading assignments from the textbook in preparation for class lectures and discussions. There will be weekly reading assignments from the textbook in preparation for class lectures and discussions. Every other week an essay question will be given that requires a 600 word written response. Assignments are **DUE BEFORE** the beginning of class on **Thursday mornings**.

Group Research Paper/Project- Each student will be required to participate in a group research project. The project will include group and personal research; a group presentation to the class, and an individual paper to be turned in. The project will be for the purpose of comparing two of the religions discussed in this course. Further explanation coming.

Quizzes... A short quiz on your weekly readings will be taken most weeks to ensure students are retaining the subject material. The quizzes are **DUE BEFORE** class begins on **Thursday mornings**.

Midterm Exam- The midterm exam will cover the Southeastern and Far Eastern religions discussed during the first half of the semester. Students will have an opportunity for questions prior to the exam. A study guide will be provided at least a week prior to the exam to assist in preparing for the exam.

Final Exam- The final exam will cover the major Monotheistic Religions of the world- Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will have an opportunity for questions prior to the exam. A study guide will be provided at least a week prior to the exam to assist in preparing for the exam.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Written/Reading Assignments	240 pts.
Research Paper/Project	190 pts.
Weekly Quizzes	120 pts.
Midterm Exam	150 pts.
Final Exam	200 pts.
Class Participation	100 pts.
Total	1000 pts.

Grading Rubric: Total points achieved divided by 1000 possible points equals the percentage for a grade of:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D < 59% = F

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION: Quizzes and Essay assignments will be taken online through Canvas. The Midterm and Final exams will be taken in class.

LATE WORK: Quizzes will NOT be accepted after the due date. Essay Assignments turned in late will be marked down drastically. **Any assignment turned in more than 2 days late will not be accepted.** Assignment turned in one day late will constitute a 10% grade reduction and assignments turned in two days late will constitute another 10% grade reduction, resulting in a total of a 20% grade reduction.

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of 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. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- **Food and Drink** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

Online Netiquette

- **What is netiquette?** Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!)].

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **CANVAS LMS.** Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: [Canvas Student Login](#). The [Canvas Student Guides Site](#) provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

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](#) (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information..

Veteran's Center

The mission of the [IVC Military and Veteran Success Center](#) is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

Student Equity Program

- The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.
- The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1	Syllabus & Course Introduction; Course Overview	
Week 2	AN INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION: What is religion? Why are People religious? Why are there so many religions? Why is studying religion important today?	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- pgs. 3-29 <input type="checkbox"/> Writing-600-word essay <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 3	INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS OF NORTH AMERICA. The practices and beliefs of the Native American peoples in the United States.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading-pgs. 31-60 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 4	INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS OF AFRICA. Exploring the practices and beliefs of the African Religions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- pgs. 61-90 <input type="checkbox"/> Writing-600-word essay <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 5	HINDUISM Covering the teachings, practices, and way of life of this dominate religion in India.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- pgs. 91-144 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz on Hinduism
Week 6	BUDDHISM- Understanding the life and foundational teachings of Buddha, and the beliefs and practices of this religion today.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading-pgs. 145-192. <input type="checkbox"/> Writing-600-word essay <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 7	JAINISM- looking into the religion known as “the way of non-injury” and it’s exemplifying the ideal of nonviolence.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading-pgs. 193-222. <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 8	SIKHISM- The religion that intermixes concepts from Hinduism & Islam.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading-pgs. 223-250 <input type="checkbox"/> Writing-600-word essay <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 9	No Class- Spring Break	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- pgs. 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 10	CHINESE RELIGIONS: CONFUCIANISM & DAOISM- Understanding the two Chinese indigenous religions that share a common source spring.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- pgs. 251-302 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 11	Midterm Exam- Tuesday SHINTO- Thursday We explore Shinto as a religion of the Japanese people, but also one with close ties to the state/Imperial line.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- Brodd, chapter 9; pgs. 303-330. <input type="checkbox"/> Writing-600-word essay question response <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz on Shinto

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 12	JUDAISM- Understanding the religion of the Jewish people- origins, teachings, traditions, and practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading-Brodd-pgs. 361-418 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 13	CHRISTIANITY- A real look into the world’s largest religion which was ushered in through Jesus Christ of Nazareth.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- pgs. 419-478 <input type="checkbox"/> Writing- 600-word essay <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 14	ISLAM- Discussing the 2nd largest religion in the world founded by Mohammed and rooted in the Qur’an.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- Brodd, chapter 13; pgs. 479-536 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz
Week 15	RELIGION AND ETHICS- Tuesday GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS- Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- Handout <input type="checkbox"/> Writing- 600 Word essay
Week 16	RELIGION AND ETHICS- Tuesday GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS- Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading- Handout <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz on Handout
Week 17	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS- Tuesday FINAL EXAM- Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Study for Final Exam <input type="checkbox"/> No Quiz or Writing Assignment

Tentative, subject to change without prior notice