

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2021	Instructor Name:	Brett Miller
Course Title & #:	RELS 100 Religions of the Modern World	Email:	Brett.miller@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20521		
Classroom:	N/A		
Class Dates:	February 16, 2021 – June 11, 2021		
Class Days:	Asynchronous		
Class Times:	Asynchronous		
Units:	3.00		

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)

N/A

Student Learning Outcomes

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

William A. Young 2013. *The World's Religions: Worldviews and Contemporary Issues* 4th Edition. Pearson. ISBN: 9780205917617.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Quizzes — Quizzes will be given weekly that will cover both the lectures and the text reading. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes are available on Mondays and due 11:59pm on Saturdays. The quizzes will emphasize the sacred texts for various religions. Sacred texts are often central to the beliefs and practices of a religion. Exposure to such texts provides context to religious worldviews. Selections from religious texts will be provided, and students will answer questions and prompts based on the readings. Quizzes will be due Sundays at 11:59pm.

Discussion — Discussions will be a weekly event that will allow the class to interact with the topics and one another's responses. A topic question will be given on Canvas, and each student must write a 50-100 word response to the topic. Additionally, each student must provide at least a 3 sentence response to another student's post that is relevant and applicable to that other student's response. Disagreement is permitted, but your tone should never stop being civil and courteous. Discussion questions will be available on Mondays and will be due Sundays at 11:59pm.

Exams — Two exams will be given online. The exams will not be cumulative. Students will be given time and resources to prepare and review. Exams can be rescheduled only with written teacher permission given prior to the established exam time. The exams will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

Comparison Essay — Each student will submit a 6-8 page essay comparing and contrasting two of the following religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Sikhism. Students may choose which two religions to compare. The essay must address each religion's belief in the worldview categories of (1) Ultimate Reality (2) Origin, (3) Telos, (4) Problem, (5) Solution, (6) Means. Each essay will show how the two religions might be similar or different in these six categories. Students may also include other aspects of the religions to compare (e.g founders or historical development).

The essay document must use MLA formatting. Grammar and syntax will be graded, and poor writing might obscure the content of the essay and thereby negatively affect your grade beyond your grammar score. *Please read your essay aloud and make corrections prior to submission.*

The essay will be graded on: Accurate portrayal of each religion, appropriate comparisons and contrasts between the religions, engagement with the six worldview categories, essay organization, grammar, and document specifications. The essay is submitted on Canvas and is due May 23, 2021.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Graded Assignments		Grading Rubric	
Quizzes	(20%)	A	90-100
Discussions	(15%)	B	80-89
Midterm Exam	(20%)	C	70-79
Comparison Essay	(20%)	D	60-69
Final Exam	(25%)	F	59 or below

Late Assignment Policy: Exams and comparison papers will be docked 10% if they are submitted any time after the assignment deadline, and will be docked an additional 5% each day they continue to be unsubmitted, up to three days. Any assignment not turned in after the third day after the original deadline will not be accepted. Documented exceptions may be granted with written instructor permission.

Class Etiquette

- Civility and Respect: Students are expected to behave with respect and civility toward not only the instructor, but also toward peers. Abuse, verbal or otherwise, will not be tolerated.
- Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).

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 importance 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..

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

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	2/15	Syllabus & Introduction/Why Study Religion	
2	2/22	Religious Categories and Terms	
3	3/1	Religion in the History of Thought	pp. 3-21
4	3/8	Hinduism	pp. 91-240
5	3/15	Buddhism	pp. 145-188
6	3/22	Confucianism/Daoism	pp. 251-298
7	3/29	Shinto	pp. 303-327
8	4/5	SPRING BREAK	
9	4/12	Review	
10	4/19	MIDTERM EXAM	
11	4/26	Judaism	pp. 361-413
12	5/3	Christianity	pp. 419-473
13	5/10	Islam	pp. 479-533
14	5/17	Sikhism + Essay Due on 5/23	pp.223-248
15	5/24	New Religious Movements	pp. 537-579
16	5/31	Review	
17	6/7	FINAL EXAM	

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****