

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2015	Instructor's Name	Ms. Suzi Jacobson
Course Title & #	RELS 100	Instructor's Email	suzi.jacobson@imperial.edu
CRN #	20495	Webpage (optional)	
Room	2727	Office (PT Faculty:809)	809
Class Dates	February 18-June 10	Office Hours (n/a for PT Faculty)	n/a
Class Days	Wednesday	Office Phone # (PT may use dept. number)	760-791-2526
Class Times Units	0630-0940pm 3.0	Who students should contact if emergency or other absence	760-355-6378 Ms. Toni Gamboa

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. (CSU, UC)

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)
- 4.

Course Objectives

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

1. Describe the major beliefs of Hinduism.
2. Describe the major developments of Buddhism.
3. Explain the basic teachings of Daoism.
4. Describe the basic teachings of Sikhism
5. Describe the basic beliefs of Judaism.
6. Describe the basic beliefs of Christianity.
7. Describe the basic beliefs of Islam.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World by Stephen Prothero 978-0061571282
- No god but God (Updated Edition): The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam by Reza Aslan 978-0812982442
- Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey from Bozeman to Banaras by Diana Eck 978-0807073018

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Out-of-class: Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes. 1. Complete writing assignments 2. Complete reading assignments 3. Study lecture notes 4. Participate in field trips, service learning, and individual field observations. Critical Thinking: Clarification, analysis, and evaluation are philosophical skills developed in the classroom and applied in assignments.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester; therefore you may reasonably expect WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Reading and Writing:

Written demonstration of critical thinking skills will be required.

- Writing assignments requiring application of critical thinking skills to selected issues in the philosophy of religion.
- Oral Presentation Projects
- Group Projects
- Class Participation
- Class Work & Quizzes
- Homework Assignments

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grade Structure	
Individual Writing Assignments	250 points
Individual Quizzes	250 points
Individual Research Paper & Group Presentation (P & P)	700 points
In Class Group Assignments	500 points
Individual Final Exam	300 points
TOTAL	2000 points

Grade Distribution 2000 points possible

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%.

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. In other

words, you may be dropped after missing one class. 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.
- 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, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present 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 correctly ‘cite a source’, 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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or 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 School 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) use of a commercial term paper service

Additional Help – Discretionary Section and Language

- Blackboard support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- Learning Labs: There are several ‘labs’ on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, **Reading & Writing Lab**, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning 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. If you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations, the DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

SCHEDULE – RELS 100 - Spring 2015

Feb 18	What, where & why of religion video: “The Power of Myth” Indigenous Religions – Read <i>before</i> you come to class: Prothero Ch 6
Feb 25	Yoruba Religion – Indigenous Religions – Read <i>before</i> you come to class: Prothero Ch 6 Homework for 3/4: Writing Assignment No. 1
Mar 4	Sikhism – Read <i>before</i> you come to class: INTRO to Sikhism – Bb Homework for 3/11: Writing Assignment No. 2
Mar 11	Judaism - Read <i>before</i> you come to class: Prothero, Chapter 7 <i>Judaism P&P Research paper due – members of Judaism group only</i>
Mar 18	Judaism - Read <i>before</i> you come to class: Case Study: <i>In Pursuit of Justice on Bb</i> Homework for 3/25: Writing Assignment No. 3 Judaism Group P&P presentation
Mar 25	Christianity - Read <i>before</i> you come to class: Prothero, Chapter 2 <i>Christianity P&P Research paper due – members of Christianity group only</i>
Apr 1	Christianity - Read <i>before</i> you come to class: Case Study: <i>Trouble in Troy on Bb</i> Christianity Group P&P presentation
Apr 8	**** SPRING BREAK ****
Apr 15	Islam Read <i>before</i> you come to class: Prothero, Chapter 1 In Class Case Study: <i>Adding Eid on Bb</i> <i>Islam P&P Research paper due – members of Islam group only</i>

Apr 22	Islam Read <i>before</i> you come to class: Aslan, Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5 Islam Group P&P presentation Homework for 4/29: Writing Assignment No.4
Apr 29	Hinduism - Read before you come to class: Eck, Chapters 2, 3, 4 & 5 <i>Hinduism P&P Research paper due – members of Hinduism group only</i>
May 6	Hinduism - Read before you come to class: Prothero, Chapter 4 Homework for 5/13: Writing Assignment No.5 Hinduism Group P&P presentation
May 13	Buddhism - Read before you come to class: Prothero, Chapter 5 <i>Buddhism P&P Research paper due – members of Buddhism group only</i>
May 20	Buddhism - Read before you come to class: Case Study: Feeding Faith on Bb Buddhism Group P&P presentation
May 27	Daoism - Read before you come to class: Prothero, Chapter 8 Bring 3 coins of the same value with you to class, eg. 3 pennies or 3 dimes or 3 quarters
Jun 3	Course Review +In Class Assignment: “A Tribe of Their Own”
Jun 10	FINAL EXAM – Comprehensive – covering every single thing you have learned in this class!