

Course Syllabus and Schedule

RELS 1— CRN 10525 — Fall 2015

Imperial Valley College

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Ron Griffen

Contact: e-mail: rgriffen1@students.imperial.edu
phone: 760.554.5520

Meetings: Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - 9:40 p.m. — Room 403

I. Course Description

RELS 100 is an introduction to the concepts of what makes a religion a religion and why that might matter. We will study the basic beliefs, history and traditions of several of the world's major religious traditions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Objectivity and openness are important characteristics of this study, seeking to understand the significance of religious pluralism.

Course Textbook: *Living Religions*. Mary Pat Fisher. Pearson/Prentice Hall. Ninth Edition.

II. Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, arrive on time and remain for the entire class period.

Students are responsible for material covered in their absence.

III. Course Development and Grading

There will be short written assignments, homework, quizzes, group presentations, a **research paper/project (P &P)** a Mid-term Exam and a Final Exam.

Grade Structure

Class Participation & Attendance	10%
Written Assignments/ Homework	25%
Research P & P	25%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%

IV. Grade Distribution

Course grade will be a percentage of the points earned divided by the 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 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 the student 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.
2. Identify and discuss the nature of religious revelation and interpretation of sacred texts.
3. Recognize the relationship between religion and culture and the relevance of religious belief and experience to modern life and the human condition.

VIII. Disabled Student Programs and sErvides (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor of the 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

Please silence your cellphones for the duration of the class!!

Schedule — RELS 100 — Fall 2015

8/19 Introduction to the study of religion: what is it and why study it? Indigenous Sacred ways. Read Ch. 1 and 2

Assignment: 700 word essay on either Review Question 2 OR Discussion 2 on pg. 119. Due 8/26

8/26 Hinduism. Read Ch. 3 **Essay on Hinduism due.**

9/2 **Quiz - Hinduism.** Jainism. Sikhism. Read Ch. 4 and Ch. 11

9/9 Buddhism. Read Ch. 5

Assignment: 700 word essay on the branches of Buddhism.

9/16 **Quiz on Buddhism** Buddhism. Daoism and Confucianism. Read Ch. 6
Essay on Buddhism due.

9/23 **Midterm Exam. Covering Eastern Religious Traditions.**
Student Presentations

9/30 **Judaism. Read Ch. 8** Judaism.

Assignment: 700 word essay on Jewish Holy Day.

10/7 Judaism. **Jewish Holy Day assignment due. Quiz on Judaism.**

10/14 Islam. Read Ch. 10

Assignment: 700 word essay on The Five Pillars of Faith.

10/21 Islam. **Essay due on Five Pillars of Faith. Quiz on Islam.**
Student Presentations

10/28 Christianity.

Assignment: 700 word essay on Christian pluralism.

11/4 Christianity. **Essay due on Christian Pluralism. Quiz on Christianity.**

11/11 **Veteran's Day Holiday. No Class**

11/18 **Student Presentations**

12/2 Religion and the World Today - Things in Common.
Conflicts Within and Without

12/9 **Final Exam**