

Course Code & No. – Section: HUMN 210 – Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Exploring World Religions (3)
Term & Year: Fall / 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 80043

Instructor: Robert King
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Office Hours: by appointment

Class Meeting Times: TR 10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Location: Prim Library 320

Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

Course Description

This course examines religious thought, expression and practice in both historical and contemporary contexts. The major world religions are studied as expressions of the most profound yearnings of human existence. The emphasis throughout is upon religion as a living, dynamic response to universal human questions, a response often resulting in enlargement of vision and expansion of self-knowledge.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the structural and comparative dimensions of religion;
2. Engage in systematic analysis of the specific doctrines of the world's faiths;
3. Appreciate the deeper hopes and yearnings of humankind as revealed through religion.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Classroom participation leading up to a midterm and a final exam;
2. A research project to be approved in advance by the instructor;
3. A final classroom presentation related to the research project.

Instructional Strategies

This course will be a combination of lecture and discussion based upon close reading of the text. Discussion will become increasingly important as we move further into the material.

Required Texts

Anatomy of the Sacred, Livingston, 6th ed., ISBN: 9780136003809
The World's Religions, Smith, ISBN: 0062508113

Attendance

Attendance in so concentrated a course will be especially important. Any missed classes must be made up in order to pass the course. If you miss 6 classes, you fail the course, regardless of standing academic performance. If you miss five courses, you will drop a letter grade. As well, regular tardiness is basically equivalent to an absence in class (2 x tardy = 1 absence). Once class begins, all members of the class will be expected to remain for the duration of the class.

Class Requirements

Food will not be permitted in this class. Always come prepared with your textbooks and necessary materials to take notes. I strongly discourage the use of computers for note-taking. If you need to use a computer to take notes, please first ask for permission. In addition, there will be no use of cell phones during class, including texting. If you are seen using a cell phone for any reason without prior permission, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the session. We will be using our texts frequently in class; therefore, please bring them to each meeting.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just the internet) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either onsite or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Prim Library has many resources which are helpful for your research. You may find the following information helpful:

Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles):
Electronic databases most likely to include articles related to your research are EBSCO, Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, and ProQuest.

Lib Guides: <http://Libguides.sierranevada.edu> These web pages contain instructions about how to use resources available at Prim Library, how to evaluate the appropriateness of information from the Internet for a research paper, how to cite sources, and other topics related to finding and using information.

For any books not housed at SNC, you can use inter-library loan (ILL) to borrow books from major university libraries, free of charge. Speak with someone at the front desk at the Prim Library for help.

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

Grading Policy

Grading will be based upon written work, presentations, the midterm and final exam, and classroom participation. Although exams will be the primary means of grade assessment, improvement from the midterm to the final can be very important in terms of the final grade. A simple average of the grades from the exams, presentations, and participation will be the baseline for the final grade.

Grading Scale

Exams = 70% of course grade

Presentation = 20%

Participation= 10%

100 – 98 % = A+

97 – 90% = A

89 – 88% = B+

87 – 80% = B

And so on...

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu, office in Prim Library: PL-304.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes

Liberal Arts	Professional Preparedness
Entrepreneurial	Thinking Sustainability

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Text
8/18	Introductory	
8/20	What Is Religion?	L., xv-14
8/25	The Ways Religion Is Studied	L., 15-34
8/27	The Sacred and the Holy	L., 35-51
9/1	Ontology and Epistemology of Religion	
9/3	Sacred Ritual	L., 74-95
9/8	Society and the Sacred	L., 124-150
9/10	Cosmogony	L., 183-210
9/15	Anthropology: The Human Problem	L., 211-234
9/17	Theodicy, Soteriology, Eschatology	Handout
9/22	The Sacred and Secular in Modernity	L., 339-360
9/24	Reorientation: Huston Smith, Hinduism	S., xiii-11;12-25
9/29	Hinduism II	S., 25-81
10/1	Midterm Review	
10/6	MIDTERM	
10/8	Buddhism	S., 82-102
10/13	Buddhism II	S., 102-119
10/15	Confucianism	S., 154-178
10/20	Confucianism II	S., 179-195
10/22	Taoism	S., 196-200
10/27	Taoism II	S. 201-220
10/29	Judaism	S., 271-289
11/3	Judaism II	S., 290-316
11/5	Christianity	S., 317-333
11/10	Christianity	S., 333-364
11/12	Islam	S., 221-270

11/17	Islam II	S., 221-270, Cont'd
11/19	Atheism	Handout
11/23- 11/27	THANKSGIVING	
12/1	Atheism II	
12/3	Final Review	
Finals Week	TBD	