

Course Code & No. – Section: HUMN 210/1
Course Title (Credits): Exploring World Religions (3)
Term & Year: Fall / 2017
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 80191
Instructor: Dan O'Bryan
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Office: Prim 301
Office Hours: MW 9:00-2:30; 4:00-5:00
TR 9:00-1:00; 2:30-5:00
F 9:00-10:00; 1:00-5:00
Class Meeting Times: TR, 1:00-2:15
Location: PL 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 approached 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 class, a student should 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;
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 texts. Discussion will become increasingly important as we move further into the material.

Required Texts

Anatomy of the Sacred, James C. Livingston, 6th ed., ISBN: 9780136003809

The World's Religions, Huston Smith, 50th Anniversary ed., ISBN: 9780061660184

Attendance

If absences exceed two for the term, a legitimate excuse, either personal or medical, must be submitted. If no excuse appears, the third absence will result in a reduction of one grade point; the fourth, of two grade points; the fifth, of three grade points; the sixth absence will result in an F for the course.

Class Requirements

Food and drink will not be permitted in this class.

Once class begins, all members of the class will be expected to remain for the duration of the class.

Tardiness is a royal pain and may result in bizarre consequences.

We will be using our texts frequently in class; therefore, please bring them to each meeting.

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 for Violating the Faculty/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 consequences for 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 refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the honor code become part of a student's academic record.

SNC's Disciplinary Sanctions for Honor Code Violations:

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 the position papers, the examinations, the research paper, the presentations, and classroom participation. Although the position papers, examinations, the research paper, presentations and classroom participation will be the primary means of grade assessment, improvement throughout the semester will be very important in terms of the final grade. A simple average of the grades from the position papers, examinations, the research paper and presentations will be the baseline for the final grade. If significant improvement occurs throughout the course, however, this fact will be taken into account.

Academic 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.

THE FOUR SUSTAINABILITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY.

THE MISSION: OUR GRADUATES WILL 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 ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts

Entrepreneurial Thinking

**Professional Preparedness
Sustainability**

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Text
8/22	Introductory	
8/24	What Is Religion?	L., xv-14
8/29	The Ways Religion Is Studied	L., 15-34
8/31	The Sacred and the Holy	L., 35-52
9/5	Sacred Symbol, Myth and Doctrine	L., 53-73
9/7	Sacred Ritual	L., 74-95
9/12	Sacred Scripture	L., 94-123
9/14	Society and the Sacred	L., 124-150
9/19	Deity: Concepts of the Divine	L., 151-182
9/21	Cosmogony	L., 183-210
9/26	Anthropology: The Human Problem	L., 211-234
9/28	Theodicy	L., 235-258
10/3	Ethics	L., 259-286
10/5	Soteriology	L., 287-311
10/10	Soteriology/Eschatology	L., 311-337
10/12	The Sacred and Secular in Modernity	L., 339-360
10/17	Contemporary Challenges to Religion	L., 361-398
10/19	Review and Midterm	
10/24	Reorientation: Huston Smith	S., xi-11
10/31	Hinduism	S., 12-81
11/2	Buddhism I	S., 82-119
11/7	Buddhism II	S., 119-153
11/9	Jainism and Sikhism	
11/14	Confucianism	S., 154-195
11/16	Taoism	S., 196-220
11/28	Judaism	S., 271-316
11/30	Christianity	S., 317-364
12/5	The Primal Religions	S., 365-391
12/7	Final Remarks	