

# R210: World Religions

# Syllabus

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## Mt. Hood Community College

### Instructor

Niko Kwiatkowski

### Email

nicholas.kwiatkowski@mhcc.edu

### Office Location

AC 2682

### Office Hours

W, F 11:00-11:30

### Course Website

<http://R210MHCC.yolasite.com>

## Course Overview

This course is designed to give students an overview of the world's major religions. We will begin by discussing themes common amongst various indigenous spiritualities, followed by studies of four major Eastern faiths: Daoism, Confucianism, Hinduism and Buddhism, and then move on to the three major Western monotheisms: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each of these faiths will be regarded in its historical as well as contemporary context, as religions are living entities that play major roles in global events and contribute towards the character of everyday life in many cultures. Independent learning will be emphasized, as will critical thinking skills and class participation. Lectures will resemble a seminar format.

## Course Objectives

1. Identify the distinctions and similarities of each religion
2. Compare and contrast the different religious viewpoints across selected, specific issues
3. Recognize the founders of the religions, the circumstances that crystallized each religion, and the historical developments of each religion
4. Identify the primary traditions and rituals of different religious practices.

## Required Text

*Experiencing the World Religions: Traditions, Challenge, and Change*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, by Michael Molloy (available at the campus bookstore)

## Additional Course Materials

Additional course materials, such as articles, videos, and web links are available on the course website.

<b>Dates and Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Jan. 6, 8, 10</b> 1: <u>Introduction to the study of religion</u>	Molloy, pp. 3-30	None
<b>Jan. 13, 15, 17</b> 2: <u>Indigenous Religions</u>	M 33-68	Quiz 1 (Jan. 13)
<b>Jan. 22, 24, 27</b> 3: <u>Hinduism</u>	M 73-117	Quiz 2 (Jan. 22) <b>Personal reflection paper</b> (Jan. 24)
<b>Jan. 29, 31, Feb. 3</b> 4: <u>Buddhism</u>	M 123-178	Quiz 3 (Jan. 29)
<b>Feb. 5, 7, 10</b> 5: <u>Daoism/Confucianism</u>	M 205-250	Quiz 4 (Feb. 5)
<b>Feb. 12, 14, 17</b> 6: <u>Judaism</u>	M 281-327	Quiz 5 (Feb. 12) <b>Group presentation proposal</b> (Feb. 14)
<b>Feb. 19, 21, 24</b> 7: <u>Christianity</u>	M 333-401	Quiz 6 (Feb. 19) <b>Compare/contrast essay</b> (Feb. 21)
<b>Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 3</b> 8: <u>Islam</u>	M 407-467	Quiz 7 (Feb. 26)
<b>Mar. 5, 7</b> 9: <u>The Modern Search / Review</u>	M 507-536	Quiz 8 (Mar. 5)
<b>Mar. 10, 12, 14</b> 10: <u>Presentations</u>	None	<b>Group Presentation</b> (Mar. 10, 12, or 14)

### **Grading Procedure**

15% - Attendance

25% - 8 Quizzes (regarding the previous week's reading/discussion)

15% - Personal reflection essay

10% - Group presentation proposal

15% - Compare and contrast paper

20% - Group presentation

## **Extra Credit**

Each student is allowed to earn up to 15% of his or her class grade through extra credit. These assignments will be discussed in class and can be acquired from the course instructor.

## **Late Work Policy**

Same day, after class: - 5% of total points possible  
One day late: - 10%  
Within one week late: - 15%  
Within two weeks late: - 30%  
More than two weeks late: not accepted

## **Classroom Code of Conduct**

This course aims to investigate religions with respect and curiosity. We all have our own perspectives and opinions and we all bring distinct worldviews and life-experiences to the classroom. Controversial topics will be discussed and opinions will undoubtedly differ. Students are required to engage one-another respectfully, courteously and with an attitude that encourages the inclusion, participation and learning of all. There will be a policy of zero-tolerance regarding the use of hateful/disrespectful speech or actions towards any faith, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or bodily ability, etc.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to follow MHCC's code of conduct regarding plagiarism. Any work submitted for credit in this course should be the student's own work, or properly cited.

As group work is encouraged in this course, a degree of collaboration is expected; however, work turned in as a student's personal writing or research should be his or her own. Copying the work of others will be considered plagiarism.

## **Students with disabilities**

If you have a disability that requires any special accommodations for the classroom or assignments, please contact the course instructor as early in the term as possible to make the appropriate arrangements. For further assistance please contact MHCC's Disabilities Services Office: (503) 491-6923, dsoweb@mhcc.edu, rooms 2251 and 2252.