

**RELIGION 1**  
**PATTERNS OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE**

**FALL TERM 2014**  
**MWF 11:15-12:20, Tu 12:00-12:50 (X-Hour)**

**LECTURES: TBD**  
**DISCUSSIONS: TBD & TBD**

Religion 1 is a comparative study of some of the basic issues of religious thought and some of the basic structures of religious communities. The course is arranged thematically and will focus upon concepts such as myths of creation, religious rituals of initiation, the nature of religious leadership, and concepts of suffering and salvation. Source material for our study will be taken from the literary and artistic resources of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, as well as from other ancient and modern religious traditions.

**I. Instructors**

Prof. Reiko Ohnuma  
314 Thornton Hall, 646-2114  
Office Hrs: Mon, Weds 1-3:00  
(& by appt.)

Prof. Ronald M. Green  
313 Thornton Hall, 646-3141  
Office Hrs: Mon, Weds 1-3:00  
(& by appt.)

**II. Texts (Nos. 1-3 available at both Dartmouth Bookstore & Wheelock Books; No. 4 available only at Wheelock Books) (all texts also available on 2-hour loan at Baker-Berry Reserves, but we encourage you to purchase them)**

1. The Bible, NRSV translation, with Apocrypha
2. U. R. Anantha Murthy, *Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man*
3. Walpola Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*
4. Religion 1 Sourcebook
5. Additional readings are posted on Canvas and can be found linked to the class session for which they are assigned

**III. Requirements**

1. Two in-class exams. One, covering Units I and II, will be given during the regular class hour on Wednesday, Oct. 8. The second, covering Units III and IV, will be given during the regular class hour on Friday, October 31. Each will count as **15%** of your final grade.

2. Two take-home essays. One, covering issues raised in Units I and II, will be due at **5:00 PM** on Mon Oct. 20; the second, covering issues raised primarily (although not exclusively) in Unit V will be due at **5:00 PM** on Sunday, November 23. Each essay will count as **25%** of your final grade.

3. Active participation in weekly discussion sections. Active participation assumes that you will: (1) come to discussion; (2) complete all the assigned readings and/or view all the assigned films before discussion meeting; (3) post responses on Canvas as assigned for each discussion section's readings and/or films; (4) be prepared to discuss the readings, films, and your responses in discussion; and (5) actually speak up during discussion and contribute. Participation also assumes that you will (6) answer a second Discussion Forum question per week, which will be based on one of our lecture class meetings, on Canvas. **All class-sessions for which discussion forum responses are required are marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) on the syllabus below.** All these factors will be taken into account in determining your participation mark. Participation will count as **20%** of your final grade.

4. Please note: **All** of the above requirements must be fully completed in order to pass the course.

#### IV. Other Matters

1. Religious Observances: We realize that some students may wish to take part in religious observances that fall during the term. Should you have a religious observance that conflicts with participation in the course, please come speak with us as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.

2. Disabilities: Students with learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities who may require disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to see us as soon as possible to discuss your particular needs. All discussions will remain confidential, although we may consult the Student Accessibility Services office to discuss appropriate implementation of any accommodation requested.

3. Illness: Based on our experience over the years, we can report that the #1 predictor of success in REL 1 is to come to class. We urge you, therefore, to attend class on a regular basis. We realize, though, that students may be affected by illnesses that will preclude attendance. We will therefore be putting as much class material as possible (PowerPoints, etc.) on Canvas for review. We know this is an imperfect substitute for actually being present in class, but hope it will be of help nevertheless.

[Note: Exceptional circumstances may require changes in this syllabus and revision of requirements and assignments.]

## V. Schedule of Discussions and Meetings

[Note: All class sessions for which submission of a Discussion Forum response is required are marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) on the syllabus below. Discussion Forum responses are due by 6:00 AM on the relevant day.]

**\*\*M Sept 15** *Introduction to the Course*

### **Unit I. Constructing the World: The Work of the Gods in Making the Cosmos**

**\*\*W Sept 17** *Cosmologies as Maps of the World*

*READ* Mircea Eliade, "The Prestige of the Cosmogonic Myth" (Sourcebook); "Cosmology in India" (Sourcebook).

**F Sept 19** *Cosmology: Space, Time, and...*

*READ* "The Sacrifice of the Primal Man (Purusha)" (Sourcebook); George Hart, "Patterns of Creation in Ancient Egypt," in *Egyptian Myths*, pp. 9-15, 29-33 (posted on Canvas).

**\*\*M Sept 22** *Cosmology: Space, Time, and...and More...*

*READ* From the Bible: Genesis, Chap. 1, verse 1 – Chap. 12, verse 9 (from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament); The Gospel of John, Chap. 1, verses 1-51 (from the New Testament).

### **Unit II. Being in the World: The Work of Humans in Defining Their Landscape**

**Tu Sept 23** *Building Sacred Space: The Indian Cosmic Mountain*

*READ* George Michell, "The Temple as a Link Between the Gods and Man" (Sourcebook).

**\*\*W Sept 24 &  
\*\*F Sept 26** *Discussion Section for Unit I: Evaluating Our Study of Cosmology*

*READ* Jonathan Z. Smith, "The Wobbling Pivot" (Sourcebook); Jonathan Z. Smith, "In Search of Place" (Sourcebook).

**\*\*M Sept 29** *The Temple Mount in Jerusalem: Kingship in Heaven and on Earth*

READ From the Bible: Exodus, Chaps. 1 to 24; First Kings, Chaps. 6-8 (all from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament).

*Tu Sept 30 Christian Sacred Spaces: Catholics and Protestants*

READ Martin Luther, Selections from "Sermons on the Catechism" ("On Prayer and the First Three Petitions of the Lord's Prayer"; "The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Petitions"; "On Baptism"; and "The Lord's Supper") (Sourcebook). Also, Martin Luther, *The Smalcald Articles*, Part I, article I ("The first and chief article") and Part II, article II ("Of the Mass"). Available through link on Canvas or online at:  
<<http://bookofconcord.org/smalcald.php#mass>>

**\*\*W Oct 1 & Enviro**ns Discussion Section for Unit II: Islamic Sacred Space: Mecca and Its

**\*\*F Oct 3**

VIEW in advance of section the film "Inside Mecca" (available on streaming video).

READ Genesis, Chap. 15, verse 1 – Chap. 22, verse 19 (from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament).

**\*\*M Oct 6 Dartmouth Sacred Spaces**

READ Donald J. Bruggink and Carl H. Droppers, *Christ and Architecture*, selections (posted on Canvas).

*T Oct 7 Dartmouth Sacred Spaces (Cont'd.)*

*No reading assignment.*

*W Oct 8 In-Class Exam No. 1 (covering Units I and II)*

### **Unit III. Being in the World: Becoming a Member of a Religious Community**

*F Oct 10 Bringing Boys into a Religious Community*

READ Victor Turner, "Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in *Rites de Passage*" (Sourcebook); Victor Turner, "Liminality and Communitas" (Sourcebook); Malidoma Patrice Somé, Excerpts from *Of Water and Spirit: Ritual, Magic, and Initiation in the Life of an African Shaman* (Sourcebook).

**\*\*M Oct 13 Bringing Girls into a Religious Community**

*READ* Edith Turner, "Girl into Woman" (Sourcebook); Bruce Lincoln, "Initiation: Woman's Initiation," in *Encyclopedia of Religion* 7 (2005) 4484-4488 (posted on Canvas); "The Acceptance of Women into the Order" (Sourcebook); "A Description of the Buddhist Ordination Rite for Nuns" (Sourcebook).

*\*\*W Oct 15 &      Discussion Section for Unit III: The Christian Initiation Ritual of*  
*\*\*F Oct 17      Baptism*

*READ* From the Bible: Gospel of Mark, Chap. 1, verses 1-18; The Book of Acts, Chaps. 1-6 (both from the New Testament); F. Van der Meer, "Becoming A Christian" (Sourcebook).

## Unit IV: Being in the World: The Construction of Religious Communities

*M Oct 20 Leadership in Christian Communities*

*READ* From the Bible (all from the New Testament): First Letter to the Corinthians, Chaps. 7-14; First Letter to Timothy, Chaps. 1-4; Letter to Titus (entire); C. H. Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, Chap. 1 (posted on Canvas).

**\*\*\* Mid-Term Take-Home Essay Due on Mon Oct 20 by 5:00 pm on Blackboard\*\*\***

*\*\*T Oct 21 Leadership in Hindu and Buddhist Communities*

*READ* "Hindu and Buddhist Views of the Status of the Brahman" (Sourcebook); Kathleen M. Erndl, "The Goddess and Women's Power: A Hindu Case Study" (Sourcebook).

*\*\*W Oct. 22 & Discussion Section for Unit IV: Destabilizing Religious Communities?  
\*\*F Oct 24*

*READ* McKim Marriott, "The Feast of Love" (Sourcebook); Jeffrey Rubenstein, "Purim, Liminality, and Communitas," in *AJS Review* 17 (1992) 247-277 (posted on Canvas).

*\*\*M Oct 27 Maintaining Communities through Laws of Purity*

*READ* David Kinsley, "Hindu Social Structure" (Sourcebook); from the Bible: Leviticus, Chaps. 11-15 (from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament); Mary Douglas, "The Abominations of Leviticus" (Sourcebook); *BEGIN READING* U. R. Anantha Murthy, *Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man*.

*\*\*T Oct 28 & Second Discussion Section for Unit IV: Hindu Purity Laws.*

*\*\*W. Oct 29*

*FINISH READING* U. R. Anantha Murthy, *Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man*.

*F Oct 31 In-Class Exam No. 2 (covering Units III and IV)*

## Unit V. Escaping the World: When and Where is Salvation Attained?

*M Nov 3 A Useful Typology: Salvation Here/Now, Here/Later, There/Now, There/Later*

READ Ronald M. Green, Theodicy, *Encyclopedia of Religion* (2005), pp. 1911-121 (available online—search for “Theodicy” – at: <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/infomark.do?eisbn=9780028659978&userGroup=group&prodId=GVRL&action=interpret&type=aboutBook&version=1.0>); Jan Nattier, “The Meanings of the Maitreya Myth: A Typological Analysis” (Sourcebook).

**\*\*Tu Nov 4**    *Salvation Here/Now: The Buddhist Path to Nirvana*

READ “The Life of the Buddha” (Sourcebook); Walpola Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*, pp. 16-66.

**\*\*W Nov 5 &**            *Discussion Section for Unit V: Salvation Here/Now? – The Life of*  
*the*  
**\*\*F Nov 7**            *Buddha*

RE-READ “The Life of the Buddha” (Sourcebook)

**M Nov 10**    *Salvation Here/Later: American Apocalyptic Christianity*

VIEW in advance of lecture the film clip from “Apocalypse!” (available on streaming video).

READ From the Bible: The Book of Daniel, Chaps. 10-12 (from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament); the Book of Revelation, Chaps. 4-10, 20-21 (from the New Testament).

**\*\*T Nov 11**    *Salvation There/Now: Mystical Journeys to Other Worlds*

READ Mark Juergensmeyer, “The Journey of Light and Sound” (Sourcebook).

**\*\*W Nov 12 &**            *Second Discussion Section for Unit V: Putting it All Together—The*  
**\*\*Nov. 14**            *Oneida Community*

READ Allan Macdonald, “Dartmouth’s Rebel Saint,” *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine* (1938) 18-19 (posted on Canvas); Excerpts (pp. 4-16, 54-71) from “Hand-book of the Oneida Community” (posted on Canvas) – or, if you want the thrill of reading Dartmouth’s copy of the original, in Dartmouth Special Collections, under the Call Number Rauner Alumni N876zh).

**\*\*M Nov 17**    *Salvation There/Later: The Mysteries of the Pyramids*

READ “The Story of Sinuhe” (Sourcebook).

**\*\*\*Final Take-Home Essay Due on Sunday, NOVEMBER 23 at 5:00 pm on Blackboard\*\*\***