

# RELIGION 100.08A – INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION – SPRING, 2001

**Texts:** Livingston, Anatomy of the Sacred (AS); Thich Nhat Hanh, The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching (HBT); Esposito, Islam: The Straight Path (ISP)

**Instructor:** Hoyt Oliver. Office, Humanities 204. Tel. 784-8369

**Goals of Course:** 1) To learn essential components and methods in the study of religions. 2) To do in-depth study of two religions, Buddhism and Islam. 3) To experience a religious faith differing from one's own.

**Requirements:** 5 tests, each 15%; one paper, 25%. **Attendance is expected.** Each unexcused absence over 3 deducts 2 points from average. 3 tardies=1 absence. **Oxford Honor Code applies to all class work.**

## DATE

## ASSIGNED READINGS

### Section 1: How Do We Study Religion?

Wed, Jan 17	Introductory session. Film, "Baraka"
Fri, Jan 19	AS, Chs. 1 & 2
Mon, Jan 22	AS, Ch. 3
Wed, Jan 24	AS, Ch. 4
Fri, Jan 26	AS, Chs. 5 & 6
Mon, Jan 29	AS, Ch. 7
Wed, Jan 31	review session
Fri, Feb 2	<b>Test # 1</b>
Mon, Feb 5	AS, Ch. 8
Wed, Feb 7	AS, Ch. 9
Fri, Feb 9	AS, Ch. 10
Mon, Feb 12	AS, Ch. 11
Wed, Feb 14	AS, Ch. 12
Fri, Feb 16	AS, Chs. 13 & 14
Mon, Feb 19	<b>Test # 2</b>

Turn in choice of religion you will study

### Section 2: Buddhism

Wed, Feb 21	HBT, Chs. 1-5
Fri, Feb 23	Film on Buddhism
Mon, Feb 26	HBT, Chs. 6-8
Wed, Feb 28	HBT, Chs. 9-12
Fri, Mar 2	HBT, Chs. 13-16
Mon, Mar 5	HBT, Chs. 17-19
Wed, Mar 7	Film on Buddhism
Fri, Mar 9	HBT, Chs. 20-22
Mon, Mar 12 – Fri, Mar 16	spring recess – no class
Mon, Mar 19	HBT, Chs. 23-25
Wed, Mar 21	Review
Fri, Mar 23	<b>Test # 3</b>

Turn in draft of research on chosen religious group

### Section 3: Islam

Mon, Mar 26	ISP, Ch. 1
Wed, Mar 28	Film on Islam
Fri, Mar 30	ISP, Ch. 2
Mon, Apr 2	ISP, Ch. 3
Wed, Apr 4	ISP, Ch. 4
Fri, Apr 6	ISP, Ch. 5
Mon, Apr 9	Film on Islam
Wed, Apr 11	ISP, Ch. 6
Fri, Apr 13	Review
Mon, Apr 16	<b>Test # 4</b>

TERM PAPERS DUE (2-point penalty for each day late)

### Section 4: Sharing what we have learned

Wed, Apr 18	class reports
Fri, Apr 20	class reports
Mon, Apr 23	class reports
Wed, Apr 25	class reports
Fri, Apr 27	class reports
Mon, Apr 30	class reports and review

At time of final exam: **Test # 5** (over class reports, plus choice of one comprehensive essay)

EMORY UNIVERSITY



050000020096

## RELIGION 100 - - - REPORT ON STUDY OF A RELIGIOUS GROUP

The field visit report requirement for Religion 100 is intended to serve four purposes:

- 1) to enable students to experience a religious tradition very different from their own;
- 2) to familiarize students with library and internet resources for the study of religions;
- 3) to allow the applications of insights and methods from class to the study of a specific group;
- 4) to help the whole class learn about the religions class members have studied.

### PROCEDURE:

**A) Select a religious tradition radically different from your own religious background.**

It may be a different religion (e.g., a Christian studying Hinduism), or it may be another extreme within your own tradition (e.g., an Orthodox Jew attending a Reform service with a female rabbi).

**B) Study, in library and on internet, the history, beliefs, and practices of that religious group.**

Standard reference works in religion should be consulted, such as the Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, HarperCollins Dictionary of Religion, etc. (general encyclopedias are not acceptable). Get literature from and about the group you are studying. **Be attentive to the “flavor” of the group you choose; what is important to them – beliefs, practices, history, ritual, experience?**

Write six to twelve pages from your research, and hand it in by the date on syllabus. This is a rough draft; you'll get comments, and it will be graded only as part of your final paper.

**You must use proper reference note and bibliographic form; plagiarism is an Honor Code offense! Every time you use someone else's ideas you must give credit, even when you are not quoting exact words.**

**C) Attend at least one worship service, prayer service, or meditation session of group you choose.**

Write a detailed description of what went on, including your reactions.

**D) Interview at least two practitioners of the religious group.** These should be extended conversations, open-ended instead of set questions. Let the people tell you what's important about their religion.

**E) Write a final paper, including background research, report on worship service, and report on interviews. These three components count about equally in credit for the paper.** You can do three sections of paper, or merge the three components into one discussion. Use extra space and/or subtitles to indicate where the breaks are in your paper. **How long?** Inappropriate question! **Long enough!** Eight pages isn't enough, and your instructor won't read more than forty pages!

**F) Turn paper in at class time on date on syllabus. There will be a two-point penalty for each day late.**

**G) Make an oral report in class on the religion you studied. When more than one student chooses a particular religious group, there will be group reports.** You (or group) should prepare an information hand-out for class. Materials from these class reports will be included on the final test for the course.

**Criteria for credit** on this assignment include: Did you risk experiencing a faith/practice strange to you? Did you catch the special “flavor” of this faith, of what's important to its followers? Did you use scholarly resources for your study, and did you learn how to do research in library and on internet? Did you genuinely participate in the worship/prayer/meditation time, or were you just a tourist? Did you engage in open, thoughtful conversation with people of this faith? Did you reflect on how this faith compares with or contrasts with your own experience? Did you use correct reference form? Was your writing clear, ordered, interesting? (etc., etc.)

**Consult with instructor** about resources, places to visit, people to talk with, etc.

**NOTE: THIS ASSIGNMENT CANNOT BE DONE IN A FEW DAYS BEFORE IT'S DUE!  
START WORKING ON IT BY THE SECOND WEEK OF THE SEMESTER!**