

RELIGION 100.08A - INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION – FALL, 2001

INSTRUCTOR: Hoyt Oliver. Office: Humanities 204

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

REQUIREMENTS: 5 tests, each 15%; one paper/field visit report, 25%. **Attendance is expected.**

Each unexcused absence over 3 deducts 2 points from average. 3 tardies= 1 absence.

The **Honor Code** applies to all work in this course; it must be your own. Use course learnlink conference.

OBJECTIVES: Learning how to study and appreciate the rich variety of human religious traditions

DATE

ASSIGNED READINGS

Section 1: How Do We Study Religion?

Fri Aug 31	Introductory Session. Film, "Baraka"
Mon Sep 3	Labor Day Holiday – no class
Wed Sep 5	AS, chs 1 & 2
Fri, Sep 7	AS, ch 3
Mon, Sep 10	AS, ch 4
Wed, Sep 12	AS, chs 5 & 6
Fri, Sep 14	AS, ch 7
Mon, Sep 17	review and film
Wed, Sep 19	Test # 1
Fri, Sep 21	AS, ch 8 Turn in choice of religion you'll study
Mon, Sep 24	AS, ch 9
Wed, Sep 26	AS, ch 10
Fri, Sep 28	AS, ch 11
Mon, Oct 1	AS, ch 12
Wed, Oct 3	AS, chs 13 & 14
Fri, Oct 5	Test # 2

Section 2: Buddhism

Mon, Oct 8	HBT, chs 1-5
Wed, Oct 10	Film on Buddhism
Fri, Oct 12	HBT, chs 6-8
Mon, Oct 15	midsemester break – no class
Wed, Oct 17	HBT, chs 9-12
Fri, Oct 19	HBT, chs 13-16 Turn in draft of research on chosen religious group
Mon, Oct 22	HBT, chs 17-19
Wed, Oct 24	film on Buddhism
Fri, Oct 26	HBT, chs 20-22
Mon, Oct 29	HBT, chs 23-25
Wed, Oct 31	Test # 3 (and Happy Halloween!)

Section 3: Islam

Fri, Nov 2	ISP, ch 1
Mon, Nov 5	Film on Islam
Wed, Nov 7	ISP, ch 2
Fri, Nov 9	ISP, ch 3
Mon, Nov 12	ISP, ch 3
Wed, Nov 14	Film on Islam
Fri, Nov 16	ISP, ch 4
Mon, Nov 19	ISP, ch 5 TERM PAPERS DUE (2-point penalty for each day late)
Wed, Nov 21	ISP, ch 6
Fri, Nov 23	Thanksgiving holiday – no class
Mon Nov 26	review
Wed, Nov 28	Test # 4

Section 4: Sharing what we've learned

Fri, Nov 30	class reports
Mon Dec 3	class reports (Note: information from class reports will be part of
Wed Dec 5	class reports material covered in Test # 5)
Fri Dec 7	class reports
Mon Dec 10	review, perhaps film, or who knows?
Tues Dec 18, 9-12 a.m. :	Test # 5 (choice of comprehensive essay + class reports material)

RELIGION 100 - - - REPORT ON A RELIGIOUS TRADITION

The research and field visit report for Religion 100, Introduction to Religion, is intended to serve three purposes:

- 1) to enable students to experience a tradition very different from their own
- 2) to familiarize students with library and internet sources for the study of religion
- 3) to allow students to apply insights and methods from class to the study of a specific religious group

PROCEDURE:

A) Select a religious group radically different from your own religious background. It may be a different world 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 Jewish service with a female rabbi).

B) Research the history, beliefs, and practices of that tradition in the libraries and on the internet. (A good beginning site on the internet is www.beliefnet.org) You should use standard reference works in the study of religion, such as The Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, The Harper-Collins Encyclopedia of Religion, etc.. (General encyclopedias are not sufficient.) Study also specific articles, books, pamphlets, etc., pertaining to the specific group you have chosen. Pay attention to what is especially important to people in the religion you have chosen: is it practice, beliefs, history, ritual, experience?

C) Write six to eight pages from your research, append a list of sources used, and turn this in by the date indicated on the course syllabus. This is a rough draft; comments will be made, and you will have opportunity to revise it before turning it in 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, even indirectly, you must give credit!**

D) Attend at least one worship service, prayer service, or meditation session of the group you have chosen. (Guidance will be offered in class on possibilities for field visits.) If possible, attend with fellow students of that faith – especially if you're going to Hindu temples, Muslim mosques, etc.

E) Have in-depth, lengthy conversations with at least two members of the faith group.

F) Write up a final report, including research material, description of visit to religious service, and conversations. Turn it in on date indicated in syllabus, at class time (2 points penalty for each day late).

G) Students will do oral class reports on what they have learned in these studies. Information from class reports will be part of the material covered on the final exam.

H) The criteria for evaluation 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 it means to its adherents?
- Did you use scholarly sources for your research? Did you learn how to do research in the library and on the 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 members of this faith?
- Did you reflect on how this faith compares with or contrasts with your own religious experience?
- Did you present your report in clear, organized, properly-documented writing?