

## RELIGION 100.09A - INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION – FALL, 2000

**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.

### DATE ASSIGNED READINGS

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

Wed Aug 30	Introductory session. Film, "Baraka"
Fri Sep 1	AS, chs 1 & 2
Mon Sep 4	Labor Day Holiday – no class
Wed Sep 6	AS, ch 3
Fri Sep 8	AS, ch 4
Mon, Sep 11	AS, chs 5 & 6
Wed Sep 13	AS, ch 7
Fri Sep 15	review and film
Mon Sep 18	<b>Test # 1</b>
Wed Sep 20	AS, ch 8 <b>Turn in choice of religion you'll study</b>
Fri Sep 22	AS, ch 9
Mon Sep 25	AS, ch 10
Wed Sep 27	AS, ch 11
Fri Sep 29	AS, ch 12
Mon Oct 2	AS, chs 13 & 14
Wed Oct 4	<b>Test # 2</b>

#### Section 2: Buddhism

Fri Oct 6	HBT, Chs 1 – 5
Mon Oct 9	Film on Buddhism
Wed Oct 11	HBT, chs 6 – 8
Fri Oct 13	HBT, chs 9 – 12
Mon Oct 16	Midsemester break – no class
Wed Oct 18	HBT, chs 13 – 16 <b>Turn in draft of research on chosen religious group</b>
Fri Oct 20	HBT, chs 17 – 19
Mon, Oct 23	Film on Buddhism
Wed Oct 25	HBT, chs 20-22
Fri Oct 27	HBT, chs 23-25
Mon Oct 30	<b>Test # 3</b>

#### Section 3: Islam

Wed Nov 1	ISP, ch 1
Fri Nov 3	Film on Islam
Mon Nov 6	ISP, ch 2
Wed Nov 8	ISP, ch 3
Fri Nov 10	ISP, ch 3
Mon Nov 13	Film on Islam
Wed Nov 15	ISP, ch 4
Fri Nov 17	ISP, ch 5 <b>TERM PAPERS DUE</b> (2-point penalty for each day late)
Mon Nov 20	ISP, ch 6
Wed Nov 22 – Fri, Nov 24	Thanksgiving holiday – no classes
Mon Nov 27	review
Wed Nov 29	<b>Test # 4</b>

#### Section 4: Sharing what we've learned

Fri Dec 1	class reports
Mon Dec 4	class reports <b>(Note: information from class reports will be part of material covered in Test # 5)</b>
Wed Dec 6	class reports
Fri Dec 8	class reports
Mon Dec 11	review, perhaps film, or who knows?
Tues Dec 19, 2 – 5 p.m.	<b>Test # 5</b> (choice of comprehensive essay + class reports material)

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## RELIGION 100 - - - FIELD VISIT REPORT

The field visit report requirement 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 resources 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 tradition 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 service with a female rabbi)

B) Research the history, beliefs, and practices of that tradition in the libraries, with special attention to standard reference works such as the Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, Harper's Encyclopedia of Religion, etc. (General encyclopedias are not acceptable.) Study also specific articles, books, pamphlets, etc., pertaining to the specific group you have chosen. Pay attention to what is especially important to your specific group: is it practice, beliefs, history, ritual, experience? Write six to eight pages from your library research, and hand it in on the date indicated on the 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. It will be graded then. ***You must use proper reference note and bibliographic form; plagiarism is an Honor 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 the group you have chosen. (Guidance will be given in class on possibilities.)

D) Interview at least two practitioners of the faith you have chosen.

E) Write up the final report, including library research, description of the worship service you attended, and interviews -- turn in on date indicated on syllabus. Students will share oral reports with the class during the last course days. Information from class reports will be included on final. Papers are due at class time: each day late will subtract two points from paper grade.

F) The 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 is important to its adherents? Did you use scholarly resources for the study of this faith, and did you learn how to go about researching through the library? 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 for whom this is their chosen faith? Did you reflect on how this faith compares with or contrasts with your own experience? (etc.)

G) Early in the course, students will be asked to indicate what religious groups they want to study, and everyone will receive a class list -- so if you want to get together with others interested in the same field visit, you may. The instructor can consult with you on transportation difficulties, suggestions of places, etc.