

# **GPH301n**

# **WORLD RELIGIONS**

## **Professor Contact Information:**

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**Saint Louis Christian College**  
**GPH301n - World Religions**  
**Prof. Larry Doggett**  
**Credit - 3hrs**

**Fall 2014**  
**Prerequisite:**

**Thursday**  
**6:00-10:00 pm**

**MISSION STATEMENT OF SLCC.**

*Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Non-Christian religions of the world are studied and compared with Christianity. Special attention is given to Animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam.

**COURSE RATIONALE**

With the changing religious picture in the United States, it is felt that every student needs to be acquainted with the major religions of the world. For students who plan to travel or live overseas it is doubly important that they know the religions in the places where they travel and work.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**As a result of this course, the student will be able to:**

1. Become acquainted with the major teachings of each of the above religions and be able to identify the religion through the mid-term and final-exam.
2. Think through these major teachings in light of the Christian faith by discussion in class over each of the religions presented.
3. Start an intelligent dialogue with those from other religions about the Christian faith.
4. Understand and dialog with, the church worker who might be working in one of these religions, such as a missionary in a particular country or a church worker who contacts someone from one of the above religions.
5. Be more at ease with someone from one of these religious backgrounds so you can minister to them by actual visitation with someone following other religions.
6. Gain an awareness of the vastness of the religions of the world and be challenged to work among peoples of other religious backgrounds by our field trips and studying the statistics of where these religions are here in St. Louis.

# **Student Assignments**

## **WEEK ONE:**

### **READING AND QUESTIONS TO ANSWER: *A Concise Introduction to World Religions.* Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

Read the Introduction and the first chapter on “Indigenous Religions” and **answer the following Questions:**

1. List the major religions of the world as listed on the headings of each chapter of your text.
2. Explain the term “Indigenous Religions”. Why does your author prefer this name?
3. What are some of the other terms used for different religions and why does your author prefer Indigenous instead?
4. Name some major components that play a major part in most Indigenous Religions.
5. How did the author of Indigenous Religions handle the “Theory of Evolution” when he tried to explain the origins of these Indigenous religions?

## **WEEK TWO:**

### **READING AND QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:**

**Read:** The Jewish Transition. Life in a Jewish family in *A Concise Introduction to World Religions.* Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.

### **Answer the following Questions:**

1. Give the statistics of the population of the Jewish nation. Where do half of them live?
2. How does the word “covenant” fit into the Jewish way of life?
3. What period of time do we find the Pharisees, Sadducees and Zealots being formed in Jewish history?
4. Name two of the main Holy days of the Jewish religion.
5. What are the first five books of the Old Testament called?
6. How far back does the author trace Judaism.
7. In Judaism, to what does the word "Torah" refer.
8. Give the approximate date of the final fall of Jerusalem to the Roman army.
9. Where was the discovery of the dead sea scrolls made.

10. During the Holocaust of World War II, how many million Jews were slaughtered.
11. During recent history when was Israel reformed as a nation again?  
Give the year.

### **Week Three:**

**Start Reading: The Christian Tradition and The Islamic Tradition in *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

1. What is the Greek word for Gospel?
2. What is the approximate number of Christians around the world today?
3. Give the dates the author gives to the lifetime of Jesus.
4. Give a description of Gnosticism during the days of the Apostles.
5. What Roman leader helped to end persecution in the church?
6. Who is Martin Luther and how did he effect the Catholic Church?
7. What is the approximate World population of Islam?
8. Give dates of the lifetime of Muhammad.
9. What city did the religion of Islam originate?
10. What problems did Muhammad have with the Arab world?
11. Where is the "Dome of the Rock" located?
12. How does the Patriarch Abraham play into the Islamic religion.
13. What is the name of the Islamic holy book?
14. Name the five pillars of Islam.

### **Week Four:**

**Start reading: The teachings of Hinduism: read about Hindu Gods, Hindu Worship, The Sikh Faith, Jainism and the Parsis in *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

Answer the following questions:

1. What Valley do most historians feel the Hindu religion originated?
2. What country was this valley located?
3. Where do most feel the culture of that area originated?
4. What is the name of the main sacred writings of Hinduism that are the songs.
5. Name six of the common deities of Hinduism.
6. What is the name of the Guru who seems to be the originator of Sikhism and Yoga?
7. What territory is Sikhism located in India?
8. In the Jain tradition what does "Ahimsa" mean and how does it relate to Jainism?
9. Who was the most well-known leader of Jainism in history.
10. How many Jains are in the world today?

## **Week Five:**

**Buddhism. The Enlightened one, Though to the Japanese religions in *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

### **Answer the following questions:**

1. In the religion of Buddhism, what is the name of the founder of this religion?
2. What year was he born?
3. What does the name Buddha mean?
4. Name five of the countries where Theravada Buddhism is strongest.
5. Name five of the countries where Mahayana Buddhism is found.
6. Give the definition of the word, "Karma".
7. List the "four Noble Truths" of Buddhism.

## **STUDENT EVALUATION**

Students will be evaluated by the College's 4.0 grading system. You should refer to the Student Handbook or the College Catalog for further details on the grading system. The criteria for determining that grade will be as follows:

1. **(20%) Take Home Final**—Refer to the material on how the Take Home Final is to be prepared. The take home final is due one week following the last night/day of class. If the student is unable to turn in the take home final on time, the student must follow the instructions in the section *Adults In Ministry (AIM) Incomplete Policy* located in the front of the Student Guide.
2. **(20%) Presenting a Formal Paper**—At the beginning of the first session of this module, the students will be informed what to choose and research a major religion they want to write about. The paper will be due on the last night of our classes.
3. **(20%) Completion of assigned exercises and reading** (see Assignment page for exact assignments with due dates).
3. **(20%) Participation in class discussion.** The professor will assign a separate grade for this part of the module which will be averaged with other portions of the grade. The criteria will be the quantity and quality of the contribution to the class.
4. **(20%) By attending all five nights of classes.**

### **TAKE HOME FINAL:**

Each student must complete a take home final. Student may use any materials in developing the take home final, but every word (unless expressly quoted with

appropriate credits given) must be that of the student submitting the paper. Any use of material written by another person without credit given will be considered plagiarism; this will result in at least an "F" for the take home final.

Students are encouraged to begin notes on how they will respond to the take home final as they progress through the course including making notation in their class notes. The Notes are intended to be a major help in producing the take home final. As a result, it is very important that the note taking be taken seriously.

The take home final is to be submitted in typewritten form, according to the form and style requirements expected by the Academic Office of Saint Louis Christian College.

The take home final should be a consideration of the guidelines, principles, and concepts students have learned in this module, and an application of these principles. The learning outcomes for this module should be used as a guideline for what to include in the take home final.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Read the textbook as assigned weekly.**

#### ***A Concise Introduction to World Religions. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.***

You will be required to read and will be expected to answer the assigned questions as we read the material each week. Study and answer the weekly assigned questions.

**2. Present an 8 page paper** on one of the major religions listed in your textbook. If you want to write on some other related subject or religion, please come to your Prof. and get it approved. This is to be typed according to the form and style requested by the MLA manual. There should be at least eight other references besides your present textbook. You should have a "works cited" section to your paper that gives reference to the "quoted materials" you are using in your text. The biblical references are also to be listed in your bibliography. Anytime you quote from another source, you must document it by noting the parenthetical phrase or any other MLA approved system of Documenting your work..

For the paper you are doing, it is suggested that you go down to one of the places of worship listed below and talk to the people who profess their faith in the religion you want to write about. Much of your paper can have firsthand material and will be of greater value to you. We will not make this mandatory, but if you really want to get the most out of this course, this would be the very best. We are very fortunate to have all of this right here in this city. We need to take advantage of it. (See directions below)

**Due: At the close of the class.**

**3. There will be one major test for this Module.** It will be your final exam at the close of the class. The Final Exam will be Comprehensive.

**Due one week after fifth week.**

## **VISITING VARIOUS RELIGIOUS PLACES IN ST. LOUIS.**

There are several religious locations here in the city; we encourage you to visit one or two of them:

There is a **Buddhist temple** right here in Florissant on Lindsay Ave, which will be easy to get to.

The **Islamic Center** is behind Barnes Hospital, on Pine Street. They receive visitors on Fridays at 1:30 PM.

There is a **Zen Buddha** center downtown, on the edge of Forest Park on Skinker Boulevard. Also one in Shrewsbury

There is also a **Baha'i Temple** just off of U.S. 40 and is an interesting place to visit.

There is now a **Hindu Temple** in the Chesterfield area, just after you pass Queeny Park.

There is a **new Islamic Mosque** located just opposite the entrance of Queeny Park.

There is a Mosque located near our Inner city Center near Kingshighway. We are working on finding the location and maybe visitation possibilities. **It is "Nation of Islam"**.

**There is another Islamic center:** On West from the College on Dunn Rd. there is a new **Islamic center**. It is on West of the Hanley/Graham intersection.

**For the paper you are doing**, it is suggested that you go down to one of the places listed above and talk to the people who profess their faith in the religion you want to write about. Much of your paper can have firsthand material and will be of greater value to you. We will not make this mandatory, but if you really want to get the most out of this course, this would be the very best. We are very fortunate to have all of this right here in this city. We need to take advantage of it.

## **6. Attendance:**

**There are five Evenings of classes.**

The student will understand that missing 25% of the classes will result in an "F" for the course.

Each absence **i.e. one evening of classes** will affect your grade. However absence beyond the one night of absence may cause you to fail the course.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT:**

Your paper will be graded by the following percentages:

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Content 50%</b>	Not even on the proper subject.	Covers the subject, but very little information and less than four pages in length.	Covers the subject well, but with only 7 pages of content.	Covers the subject very well with only 8 pages of content.	Excellent coverage of the subject, with 10 pages of excellent text.
<b>Documentation 25%</b>	No documentation at all.	Documented with only one resource.	Documented with 2 resources	Documented with three sources	Documented with six or more resources.
<b>Grammar 5%</b>	More than 10 grammatical errors	Only 8 grammatical errors	Only 5 grammatical errors	Only 3 grammatical errors	Only 2 or less grammatical errors
<b>Format 10%</b>	The paper does not demonstrate the proper usage of MLA format, documentation and the MLA title page	The paper barely demonstrates proper usage of MLA format, documentation and MLA title page.	The paper partly demonstrates proper usage of MLA format, documentation and the MLA title page.	The paper mostly demonstrates the proper usage of MLA format, documentation and the MLA title page.	The Paper clearly demonstrates the proper usage of MLA format, documentation and the MLA title page
<b>Spelling 10%</b>	Five or more mistakes in spelling.	Four mistakes in spelling.	Three mistakes in spelling.	Two mistakes in spelling.	One mistake in spelling.
<b>100%</b>				<b>Total</b>	

**Attendance:**

**There are 5 days of classes.**

The student will understand that missing 25% of the classes will result in an “F” for the course. Institutional policy states “*if absences exceed 25 percent of the total class sessions, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the class with a grade of ‘F.’*” Only five total hour units of absences are allowed in this attendance policy. Absences beyond these five will exceed the 25 percent allowance and will result in a grade of “F.”

**GRADING:**

Attendance	20%
Home Work assignments	20%
Research Paper on a Religion	20%
Participation in class	20%
Final test	20%

**Course Grading:** The student's final grade will be determined according to the SLCC grading scale. .

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Introduction to World Religions. Read: Part One of *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

1. Reviewing the syllabus.
2. Relevance in today’s world.
3. Relevance in your hometown.
4. Religion in Society. Origins of Religions.
5. The Indigenous Sacred Ways.
6. World of the Spirits. - Animism

**October 9<sup>th</sup> - Ancient Religions. - Judaism - Read –“The Chosen People”: Judaism through Life in a Jewish family in *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

**October 16<sup>th</sup> – Read the section on Islam. In *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> -- Read the teachings of Hinduism: read about Hindu Gods, Hindu Worship, The Sikh Faith, Jainism and the Parsis in -*A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

**October 30<sup>th</sup> - Buddhism. Read “The Enlightened one”, Though the Japanese religions in *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. Willard G. Oxtoby & Alan Segal, 2007.**

- Korea and its changes.
- Japan’s religions - Zen Buddhism



- Daoism and Confucianism.
- Confucianism - Shintoism –

### **COURSE STUDENT LEARNING RESOURCES (BIBLIOGRAPHY):**

Grolier's multimedia Encyclopedia in the Library,

Any good encyclopedia in any library.

**Eerdman's Handbook to the World's Religions.** Grand Rapids, Mich. 1994.

**Living Religions** by Mary Pat Fisher, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 1994.

**Religions Of The World.** By Lewis M. Hopfe. Prentice Hall. Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 1994.

**The Religions of Man,** by Huston Smith, Perennial Library, Harper Row, New York, 1986.

**The Ways of Religion,** Ed. Roger Eastman, Oxford Press, New York, 1999.

**World Religions.** By Warren Matthews, West Publishing Co. St. Paul, Minn. 1995.

**Websites: (Look in your textbook to see all of their suggestions.)**

[www.brigada.org](http://www.brigada.org)

[www.ad2000.org](http://www.ad2000.org)

[www.caleb.org](http://www.caleb.org)

Search – “Religions” in general or by specific name.

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

**Late Papers:** There will be a 5% grade reduction per day of your possible 100% paper.

**Students with a diagnosed learning disability,** please see me privately and we will try work with you.

**Please understand that the Professor reserves the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even an assignment as long as it does not add to the student's**

**Academic Dishonesty:** Please read very carefully the section in your catalog concerning Academic Dishonesty. It is very important that you follow this.

## **COURSE INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**1. OFFICE HOURS** are posted outside my door upstairs in **room 206**.

Most of the hours begin at 9:00 am and run until lunchtime on Monday through Thursday. See schedule by the office door for any other times.

### **2. PHONES AND EMAIL:**

Office: 837-6777 extension 1508.

[ldoggett@stlchristian.edu](mailto:ldoggett@stlchristian.edu) (Preferred)

Cell: 314-225-9052

Home: 314-524-1747

[Indogt@yahoo.com](mailto:Indogt@yahoo.com)

All electronic correspondences between the professor and students will be through the students' listed **Blackbaud Email address**.