

World Religions: Course Syllabus

World Religions: Exploring Diversity

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Throughout the ages, religions from around the world have shaped the political, social, and cultural aspects of societies. This course focuses on the major religions that have played a role in human history, including Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism, and Taoism. Students will trace the major developments in these religions and explore their relationships with social institutions and culture. The course will also discuss some of the similarities and differences among the major religions and examine the connections and influences they have.

Unit 1: The Study of World Religions

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Analyze different definitions of the word "religion".**
- * **Consider how different groups of people approach religion.**
- * **Identify characteristics that all religions have in common.**
- * **Discover ways in which religion affects culture and artistic expression.**
- * **Recognize the role religion plays in politics, diplomacy and social policy.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

**The Study of World Religions: Unit
Text Questions**

Homework

10 points

The Study of World Religions: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 1 Quiz – The Study of World Religions	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 2: Hinduism

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Understand Hinduism’s ancient origins.**
- * **Discuss several denominations of Hinduism.**
- * **Identify the four objectives of Hinduism and the four paths to God.**
- * **Name important Hindu texts and rituals.**
- * **Recognize the influence of Hinduism on South Asian culture.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Hinduism: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Hinduism: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 2 Quiz – Hinduism	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 3: Buddhism

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Discuss the historical and religious figure of the Great Buddha.**
- * **Understand the Buddha's basic teachings.**
- * **Describe some of the basic developments that have occurred in Buddhism since the time of the Buddha.**
- * **Identify the two primary divisions of Buddhism.**
- * **Recognize the influence of Buddhism on different world cultures.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Buddhism: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Buddhism: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

Unit 3 Quiz – Buddhism

Quiz

15 points

Unit 4: Judaism**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Identify the origins of Judaism.
- * Briefly summarize the 3500 year history of the Jewish people.
- * Understand how Jewish monotheism spread throughout the world.
- * Distinguish among the major divisions of modern Judaism.
- * Understand the beliefs and practices of modern day Jews.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Judaism: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Judaism: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 4 Quiz – Judaism	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 5: Christianity

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Learn about Jesus of Nazareth and other key figures in the origin of Christianity.
- * Understand the basic teachings of Jesus.
- * Map the spread of the Christian faith throughout Europe and the world.
- * Distinguish between Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.
- * Identify Christian influences in world art and culture.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Christianity: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Christianity: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 5 Quiz – Christianity	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

World Religions Midterm Exam

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- * Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note:

You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

ASSIGNMENT:

World Religions Midterm Exam	<i>Exam</i>	50 points
Midterm Discussion Assignment	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

Unit 6: Islam

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Identify the origins of Islam.
- * Learn about the life of the prophet Mohammad.
- * Map the spread of Islam throughout the world.
- * Distinguish among the major divisions of modern-day Islam.
- * Gain an understanding of the role of Islam in current affairs.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Islam: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Islam: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

Unit 6 Quiz – Islam	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 7: Confucianism

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Understand the world in which Confucius lived.**
- * **Outline the basics principles of Confucian thought.**
- * **Become familiar with developments in Confucian thought that came after Confucius' lifetime.**
- * **Identify components of Confucianism that cause it to be classified (by some) as a religion rather than merely a philosophy.**
- * **Recognize the influence of Confucian thought in Chinese culture.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Confucianism: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Confucianism: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 7 Quiz – Confucianism	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 8: Shintoism

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Understand the ancient origins of Shinto.**
- * **Identify the basic Shinto beliefs and rituals.**
- * **Follow the development of Shinto traditions over time.**
- * **Gain an understanding of how Shinto is practiced alongside Buddhism and other religions.**
- * **Recognize the influence of Shinto in modern Japanese culture.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Shintoism: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Shintoism: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 8 Quiz – Shintoism	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 9: Taoism

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Examine the ancient origins of Taoism.**
- * **Identify the historic/religions figure of Lao Tzu.**
- * **Understand the basic principles of Taoist thought.**
- * **Have a basic understanding of the rituals and customs common to Taoist practice.**
- * **Recognize the influence of Taoism in the cultures of China and other Asian countries.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Taoism: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Taoism: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 9 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 9 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 9 Quiz – Taoism	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 10: Religion in the Twenty-First Century

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Define challenges to religion that are presented by the modern world.**
- * **Identify the role of religion on global politics and social policies.**
- * **Recognize reasons why religious tolerance is more important than ever.**

- * **Learn about the Interfaith Movement.**
- * **Theorize about the future of religious practice.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Religion in the Twenty-First Century: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Religion in the Twenty-First Century: Online World Religions Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 10 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 10 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 10 Quiz – Religion in the Twenty- First Century	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

World Religions Final Exam

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.**
- * **Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)**

ASSIGNMENT:

World Religions Final Exam	<i>Exam</i>	50 points
----------------------------	-------------	-----------

**Class Reflection Discussion
Assignment**

Discussion

10 points

© eDynamic Learning | All Rights Reserved.