



RELIGIONS OF THE
WORLD
CORNELL COLLEGE
BLOCK 4, FALL 2019



Professor T. Christopher Hoklotubbe

Department of Religion, 101 Prall House

Class Meetings: West Hall 320, M 12-3, T 1-3, WRF 12-3 p.m.

Office Hours: TWRF 9-11; email me beforehand to schedule an appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

Religions of the World examines the history, teachings, and ways of life of both global and local religious traditions. In particular, this class will introduce students to Native American religious traditions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and a variety of new religious movements. Students will not only go off-campus to visit religious sites of worship and to dialogue with cultural insiders, but will also have opportunities to engage with ritual practices and ceremonies as led by religious experts.

This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College as follows:

- 1) **Knowledge:** Students will integrate and apply knowledge from an interdisciplinary perspective in order to understand historical development, teachings, and ways of life pertaining to religions of the world.
- 2) **Inquiry:** Students will consider the complexity of modern issues concerning religious communities, such as the legal battles surrounding the preservation of space deemed sacred by Native American cultures, the relationship between religion and nationalism, and the problem of religious violence. Furthermore, students will compare and contrast the ritual practices, discourses, and worldviews of religions of the world.
- 3) **Communication:** Students will be asked to develop skills in oral presentation and argumentation in class presentations and discussions.
- 4) **Intercultural Literacy:** Students will be asked to identify with, argue on behalf of, and critique a wide variety of religious perspectives. Furthermore, through site-visits and guest speakers, students will be invited to directly engage with the practices and practitioners of different religions.
- 5) **Ethical Behavior and Well-Being:** The study of religious practices and sacred texts, along with the moral and spiritual challenges and visions therein, is an ethical endeavor that invites existential contemplation, dialogue, and growth.



REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED COURSE TEXTS

Required texts are available at the campus bookstore; all other articles, chapters, and videos are available online on Moodle.

Molloy, *Experiencing the World's Religions*, 7th edition. E-Book

Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh, *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2016.

ASSIGNMENTS, PARTICIPATION, AND GRADING

- Mini-Quizzes
- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam
- Short Research Paper/Project
- Attendance and Participation

While reading each chapter from the textbook, students will take a series of short, low-stakes online quizzes. Important studies (*Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*) have shown that such quizzes demonstrate significant results in students' long-term retention and mastery of material and improved test scores. These quizzes can be taken as many times as you wish to test your comprehension. Students will be graded on the basis of their completion of the online quizzes, not on the basis of their performance.

Every day students will have *short writing prompts* that will form the basis of class discussions and some will show up on the midterm and final exams.

The *midterm exam* will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. The multiple choice questions will be pulled from the mini-quizzes. The essays will be adapted from the daily essay prompts, and answers will come from class readings, videos, and discussions outside of the textbook.

The *final exam* will also consist of multiple choice and essay questions and will primarily focus on themes discussed in the latter half of the course and in the same format as the *midterm exam*.

The *short research paper/project* is an important opportunity for students' intellectual growth, allowing them to dig deeper into a topic pertinent to the study of religion or to discuss and analyze an independent visit of a religious event. The paper must be 5-(complete) pages (so about 1500 words, not including title and name and generous spacing). The paper is due by **noon on Wednesday, December 18**. Options include:

- **Research Paper:** Students can write a research paper on a topic of their choice in consultation with the Professor. The student must incorporate at least four (4) peer reviewed journal articles or an *academic* book (in total for either option, reading should amount to at least 100 pages; 150 for a popular, academic-ish book). Students should reference their selected academic works throughout their papers, demonstrating clearly not only that they have read at least 100 pages, but



they *understand* it. You do not necessarily need an *argument*. Rather, you must concisely distill the arguments of the authors. Be encouraged to describe why this topic is of interest to you, but no more than a short paragraph.

- **Visit to a Religious Center and “Interview”:** Students can write a paper describing their experience of a religious service of a tradition different from what they identify with or experienced before. This is not merely a “reflection paper,” but an informed and detailed analysis *in conversation with the textbook or a separate academic source* (which they will cite) that details similarities and differences distinct to this particular instantiation of a given religious tradition in comparison with how it is described in the textbook. It would be good to reach out to the religious leader or community before attending to make sure that they can accommodate you. Students should also coordinate an informal interview/discussion with either the religious leader or member in order to discuss their particular history, practices, and way of life.

Rubric: papers will be graded on their content (50%) and grammar/style (50%).

Class attendance and participation are mandatory for this course, as is the originality of your work. *Students who consistently do not participate or are demonstrably ill-prepared for class will be deducted points.* The degree of preparation will largely determine your ability to intelligently participate in our discussions, and to be an asset to your classmates in group work.

Three absences without *verifiable* medical cause/family emergency or plagiarism will be cause for failing grades. Late papers will be subject to a minimum of a 10% deduction.

Grading:

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Final Paper	30%
Mini-Quizzes	10%

A:	94%–100%	B:	84–86%	C:	73%–76%
A-:	90%–93%	B-:	80%–83%	C-:	70%–72%
B+:	87%–89%	C+:	77%–79%	Fail:	< 70%

All readings are listed below, due on the day that they appear, and may be downloaded from Moodle. *The present schedule and/or readings are liable to be amended as is necessary.*

Students are expected to complete a significant amount of work outside of the course which supplements scheduled hours within the classroom, and exceeds the government’s regulations on course credit equivalency (2–3 hours out-of-class work for every 1 hour of classroom work, thus *at least 6 hours of out-of-class work for every day of class*).



I will hold regular office hours, but please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns about the course.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College’s requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading “Academic Honesty.”

Accommodations

Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see

<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml>.

Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1

Monday, Nov 18

Introduction

- **Read:** *Experiencing the World’s Religions*, Chapter 1
 - **Take Practice Quiz**

Tuesday, Nov 19

Indigenous Religions of North America

- **Read:** *Experiencing the World’s Religions*, Chapter 2
 - **Take Practice Quiz**
- **Read:** [Charlotte Black Elk \(Lakota\) Interview by Huston Smith, "The Homelands of Religion: The Clash of Worldviews over Prayer, Place, and Ceremony," 59-73](#) from *A Seat at the Table*.
- **Read:** [Rosalyn R. LaPier, "Will global warming change Native American religious practices?" *The Conversation* \(July 6, 2017\)](#)
- **Read:** [Rosalyn R. LaPier, "Native American religion and Standing Rock: What you need to know." *Grist* \(Nov. 7, 2016\)](#)
- **Recommended:** Vine Deloria, Jr., "Sacred Places and Moral Responsibilities," from *God is Red*, 267–82



- **Recommended:** Philip Jenkins, “Returning the Land,” from *Dream Catchers*, 223–44 (esp. 234–36)

Wednesday, Nov 20 **Indigenous Religions and Hinduism**

- **Read:** *Experiencing the World’s Religions*, Chapter 3
 - **Take Practice Quiz**
- **Read:** Selections from *Bhagavad-Gita*, 1:20–47, 2:1–48, 4:1–15, 11:1–20, 50–55, 16:1–11, 21–24; 18:1–9, 41–49, 60–73
- **Special Guest:** Mark Ravenhair P., discussion on Lakota language (Meet at West Hall 100 from 11:30-12:30 p.m.)

Thursday, Nov 21 **Hinduism**

Debate: Is Rama an Ideal Man?

- **Read:** Linda Hess, “Rejecting Sita: Indian Responses to the Ideal Man’s Cruel Treatment of His Ideal Wife,” 1–28
- **Watch:** Rama and the Ramayana (13 min.)
- **Recommended:** Linda Hess, “An Open Air Ramayana: Ramlila, the Audience Experience,” 115–36

Debate: Is Yoga Hindu?

- **Read:** [HAF: “Hindu Origins of Yoga”](#)
- **Read:** [NPR: “Modern Yoga Has Lost Its Way”](#)

Friday, Nov 22

Buddhism (Documentary and Meditation/Yoga)

- **Read:** *Experiencing the World’s Religions*, Chapter 4
 - **Take Practice Quiz**
- **Watch Documentary on Kanopy:** *Seven Wonders of the Buddhist World* (On Canopy)
- **Afternoon Yoga with Special Guest:** [Rev. Dr. Catherine Quehl-Engel](#) (Meet at Hedges Conference Room from 1:30-2:45 p.m.)

Week 2

Monday, Dec 2

Buddhism

- **Read:** [Dhamapada](#) (read as much as you can for 45 min., be sure to read: The Pairs, The Mind, The Fool, The Wise, Thousands, Violence, Affection)
- **Read:** [Thich Nhat Hanh, Happiness](#) (spend 1 hour reading what you like, including “The Five Mindfulness Trainings)
- **Listen:** [On Being with Krista Tippett: Ricard Davidson, Investigating Healthy Minds](#)
- **Recommended:** [Free the Mind](#) (documentary)
- **Special Guest:** [Rev. Zuiko Redding](#), Resident Teacher of the Cedar Rapids Zen Center



- Tuesday, Dec 3 **Chinese Religions: Confucianism and Daoism**
- **Read:** *Experiencing the World's Religions*, Chapter 6
 - **Take Practice Quiz**
 - **Watch:** Crash Course World History: China
 - **Watch:** The Tao of Pooh
- Wednesday, Dec 4 **Chinese Religions: Confucianism and Daoism**
- **Read:** Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh, *The Path*
 - Students are encouraged to read as much of this book as they can, while being responsible to teach and discuss as least 2 chapters in conversation with primary sources. The class will be split up in different groups earlier in the week.
- Thursday, Dec 5 **Sikhism and Review for Midterm**
- **Read:** *Experiencing the World's Religions*, Chapter 5
 - **Take Practice Quiz**
 - **Watch:** National Geographic: Sikhism
 - **Watch:** Sikhism 101
- Friday, Dec 6 **Midterm Exam**
9–12 p.m.
- Week 3**
- Monday, Dec 9 **Judaism**
- **Read:** *Experiencing the World's Religions*, Chapter 8
 - **Take Practice Quiz**
 - **Watch:** Modern Conflict in Palestine
 - **Class Visit to Agudas Achim in Coralville (1 p.m.–3 p.m.).**
- Tuesday, Dec 10 **Christianity**
- **Read:** *Experiencing the World's Religions*, Chapter 9
 - **Take Practice Quiz**
 - **Watch:** *Gospel of Luke Storyboard*
 - **Class Visit to St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church (12:20 p.m.)**
- Wednesday, Dec 11 **Judaism & Christianity**
Jewish Christianity and Christian Anti-Jewishness
- **Read:** [Antisemitism and the New Testament](#)
 - **Watch:** [Constantine's Sword \(90 min.\)](#)
 - **Recommend:** Michelle Goldberg, [“Anti-Zionism isn’t the Same as Anti-Semitism,” NYT Op-Ed.](#) (read comments too)



The Problem of Evil and the Cross

- **Read:** Johnson, “The Crucified God of Compassion,” 49–69
- **Read:** James Cone, “Legacies of the Cross and the Lynching Tree,” 152–66
- **Recommended:** Cornell College Candlelight Advent & Christmas Service @ 6:30 p.m. in Allee Chapel.

Thursday, Dec 12

Islam

- **Read:** *Experiencing the World’s Religions*, Chapter 10
 - **Take Practice Quiz**
- **Watch:** Islam

Friday, Dec 13

Islam

- **Read:** *Study Quran: “Conquest and Conversion, War and Peace in the Quran”*
- **Read:** [Rolling Stone: “Will America’s Oldest Muslim Community Survive Trump?”](#)
- **Read:** [Imam Hassam Selim](#)
- **Class Visit to Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids (1:15 p.m.–4:30).**

Week 4

Monday, Dec 16

New Religions and Review

- **Read:** *Experiencing the World’s Religions*, Chapter 11
 - **Take Practice Quiz**

Tuesday, Dec 17

Final Examination

Wednesday, Dec 18

Research Paper Day

- Short Research Paper/Project due by 11:59 p.m. tonight.