

RELS 105-03: WORLD RELIGIONS

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Office hours: By appointment

Spring 2022

MWF, Online Synchronous

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM EST

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introductory study of the origins, beliefs, and practices of the major religions of the world. This course is an introduction to religious studies in which students will encounter several different religions, many of which they are not nor have ever been a part. While this class will cover “World Religions,” students will be challenged to ask what it means to be a “World Religion.” Who is excluded from this category, and who is included? This course will use 1.) a material religion approach, objects, artwork, ritual sites, sacred spaces, etc., 2.) to explore how different religious traditions engage with materiality 3.) to express their worldview, their history, and their personal ideas of what we call “Religion.”

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Stephen Prothero, *Religion Matters* (Norton & Company, NY: 2020)
 - The CofC bookstore has rentals available, as does Amazon. I know this is an expensive book. There is not a better book for World Religions. The rental from Amazon is very affordable.

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course satisfies the General Education requirements for a course in the Humanities, which address these two additional Student Learning Outcomes: 1) Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture; 2) Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments. **Students will demonstrate successful mastery of the Learning Outcomes 1 & 2 by doing quiz re-writes using primary source material as a part of the reverse exam pedagogy.**

COURSE QUESTIONS:

- What is religion?
- What is religious?
- How do religious traditions or religions use material culture and material objects to express their own religiosity?
- What is sacred space?
- What are sacred objects?
- What are rituals?
- What are ritual objects?

THIS IS A LIVING DOCUMENT

Course Requirements and Assignments:

THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM, FINAL PAPER, OR FINAL PROJECT

take a collective sigh of relief

Weekly Reverse Quizzes (33.3% total) & Reverse Quiz Re-Writes (33.3% total): In lieu of one final cumulative exam, you will be quizzed each week using the Reverse Exam method, borrowed from CofC's Dr. Jennifer Wright in the Psychology Department. This method has shown to encourage learning over memorization, as well as encourage knowledge retention. Using the Reverse Exam method, students will take the quizzes **WITHOUT** studying. Each quiz will have a 12-minute time-limit with 10 to 15 questions per quiz. At the close of the quiz, you will know which questions you got wrong, but it will not show you the correct answers. The time-limit is in place to discourage (and make nearly impossible) open-note assistance. I really want you to take the quizzes using what you learned in class and what you retained. After the quiz, you will have 3-5 days to submit a "Quiz Re-Write." **Re-writes should include page numbers or PowerPoint references for the new answer.**

Your quizzes always open the first day of the unit and close the last day of the unit

Madison Tarleton

Quiz #1 rewrite: Christianity

- 1.) **Question:** Christianity is a religion that based in _____ because God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit make up the Holy Trinity.
- 2.) **Original Answer:** A. Polytheism
- 3.) **Correct Answer:** B. Soft Monotheism

Supporting Evidence for Corrected Answer: I originally selected "polytheism" because poly means many, and I thought the inclusion of all three meant "many." However, I revisited our textbook and saw that Christianity is a religion of "soft monotheism" (according to Prothero on page 226). Soft Monotheism is defined as a "belief in one God who appears in human form, as distinct from the strict monotheism of Muslims and Jews who reject the descent of the diving into a human body." Knowing this, I re-select B. Soft Monotheism

This will be submitted in the drop-box for the appropriate unit labeled "Quiz Re-Write."

Weekly Discussion Question (33.3% total grade): In addition to your weekly quizzes, you will have to answer ONE (**only one**) discussion question from the end of the chapter. These need to be formatted:

1. Question and question number you will answer
2. A 4-6 sentence answer including page numbers **FROM THE TEXT** that helped support your answer.
3. 1-sentence on what you learned during this unit that was most surprising.

Discussion questions have no due date or start date. You can do these at any point in the semester. THEY ARE ALL DUE ON APRIL 25TH BY 11:59 PM

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class Times	Reading	Assignments
Unit 1: What is Religion		
Monday, January 10	Read "Introduction: Why Religion Matters"	What is Religion Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM
Wednesday, January 12	Read "Introduction: Why Religion Matters"	
Friday, January 14	Finish reading "Introduction: Why Religion Matters"	
MLK DAY		
Monday, January 17	NO CLASS	What is Religion, Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
Unit 2: Christianity		
Wednesday, January 19	Read Chapter 6: "Christianity"	Christianity Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM
Friday, January 21	Read Chapter 6: "Christianity"	What is Religion, Re-Write Due @ 11:59 PM
Monday, January 24	Read Chapter 6: "Christianity"	
Wednesday, January 26	Read Chapter 6: "Christianity"	Christianity Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
Unit 3: Judaism		
Friday, January 28	Read Chapter 5: "Judaism"	Judaism Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM
Monday, January 31	Read Chapter 5: "Judaism"	Christianity Re-Write Due @ 11:59 PM
Wednesday, February 2	Read Chapter 5: "Judaism"	
Friday, February 4	Read Chapter 5: "Judaism"	Judaism Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
Unit 4: Islam		
Monday, February 7	Read Chapter 7: "Islam"	Islam Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM
Wednesday, February 9	Read Chapter 7: "Islam"	Judaism Re-Write Due @ 11:59 PM
Friday, February 11	Read Chapter 7: "Islam"	
Monday, February 14	Read Chapter 7: "Islam"	Islam Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
Unit 5: Buddhism		
Wednesday, February 16	Read Chapter 3: "Buddhism"	Buddhism Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM

Friday, February 18	Read Chapter 3: "Buddhism"	Islam Re-Write Due @ 11:59 PM
Monday, February 21	Read Chapter 3: "Buddhism"	
Wednesday, February 23	Read Chapter 3: "Buddhism"	Buddhism Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
Unit 6: Sikhism		
Friday, February 25	Read Chapter 4: "Sikhism"	Sikhism Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM
Monday, February 28	Read Chapter 4: "Sikhism"	Buddhism Re-Write Due @ 11:59 PM
Wednesday, March 2	Read Chapter 4: "Sikhism"	
Friday, March 4	Read Chapter 4: "Sikhism"	Sikhism Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
SPRING BREAK		
Monday, March 7	No class	No class
Wednesday, March 9	No class	No class
Friday, March 11	No class	No class
Unit 7: Navajo		
Monday, March 14	Read Chapter 10: "Navajo"	Navajo Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM
Wednesday, March 16	Read Chapter 10: "Navajo"	Sikhism Re-Write Due @ 11:59 PM
Friday, March 18	Read Chapter 10: "Navajo"	
Monday, March 21	Read Chapter 10: "Navajo"	Navajo Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
Unit 8: Daoism		
Wednesday, March 23	Read Chapter 9: "Daoism"	Daoism Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM
Friday, March 25	Read Chapter 9: "Daoism"	Navajo Re-Write Due @ 11:59 PM
Monday, March 28	Read Chapter 9: "Daoism"	
Wednesday, March 30	Read Chapter 9: "Daoism"	Daoism Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
Unit 9: Confucianism		
Friday, April 1	Read Chapter 8: "Confucianism"	Confucianism Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM
Monday, April 4	Read Chapter 8: "Confucianism"	
Wednesday, April 6	Read Chapter 8: "Confucianism"	
Friday, April 8	Read Chapter 8: "Confucianism"	Confucianism Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
Unit 10: Atheism		
Monday, April 11	Read Chapter 11: "Atheism"	Atheism Quiz Opens @ 12:01 AM

Wednesday, April 13	Read Chapter 11: "Atheism"	
Friday, April 15	Read Chapter 11: "Atheism"	
Monday, April 18	Read Chapter 11: "Atheism"	Atheism Quiz Due @ 11:59 PM
WRAPPING UP		
Wednesday, April 20	WRAPPING UP	WRAPPING UP
WORK DAYS		
Friday, April 22	No class. Independent work	No class. Independent work Atheism Re-Write Due @ 11:59 PM
Monday April 25	No class. Independent work	ALL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DUE

ADDITIONAL COURSE NOTES & COLLEGE POLICIES

Writing Lab: I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library, first floor). Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, please call 843.953.5635 or visit <http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab/>.

Grading Scale: A: 93-100; A-: 90-92; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72; D+: 67-69; D: 63-66; D-: 61-62 F: 60 or below.

Late Policy: Late assignments will lose 10% of the intended grade per 24-hour period that they are late. For example, a paper turned in one-day late that would have received a score of 89, will lose 8.9 points.

SNAP: If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodation, please present a letter from the Center for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. For more information regarding accommodation and the SNAP program, see: <http://www.cofc.edu/~cds/index.htm>.

Academic Integrity Statement: Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to misunderstanding and confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form and signed both by the instructor and the student. It is forwarded to the Office of the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at: <http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/>."

Netiquette & Tech: This class is online and synchronous. Reliable internet and a camera & microphone are **required**. If you need help getting either of these resources, check out the IT page: <https://it.cofc.edu/laptops/>. This has resources for loaner computers, financial aid for tech, etc. **Please do not join our online class meeting on your phone.** It can be distracting for you, for others, and for me. If there are circumstances beyond your control where you need to "phone in" (i.e. an emergency has precluded you from having your computer) let me know one-day in advance (if possible). Finally, I want to be thoughtful, gracious, and strategic about requiring camera usage/non-usage. I would really like to encourage camera usage. Studies have found that students who see each other during online courses are more likely to be engaged and to participate. I want you all to feel safe in my "classroom" which includes feeling comfortable keeping cameras on. Embrace the fun and unexpected moments of an online, camera-on class. You all will likely see my dogs walking around or hear the faint sound of a leaf-blower outside. Let's create an environment that is safe, comfortable, and filled with laughter at the expected.

OAKS: OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted.

CLASS RECORDINGS: Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING: At the college, we take every students' mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at <http://counseling.cofc.edu> or 843.953.5640 3rd Robert Scott Small Building) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863, visit <http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php>, or meet with them in person 3rd Floor Stern Center). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

FOOD AND HOUSING RESOURCES:

Many CofC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (<http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php>). Also, you can go to <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php> to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need. Please consider reaching out if you need more assistance.

Syllabus Contract and Expectations:

While I expect certain things of you in the course, participation, attendance, timeliness, and good engagement, you also should and could expect certain things of me. Think of the syllabus as a **tool** and also a **contract**. First, the syllabus is a tool. It can offer answers and solutions to problems. The syllabus can help you piece together the course to create an entire picture of what the final product will look like. Look to the syllabus first. Second, the syllabus is a contract. The syllabus says, to you, "This is what Professor Tarleton expects of you." There's nothing sneaky, tricky, or underhanded about it. But, the syllabus also holds me accountable to you. You know what to expect of me with regard to office hours, email response time, assignment expectations, and grade performance. Your first assignment will be to return this page to me, uploaded as an assignment (Syllabus Contract), and signed (typed name is fine).

I can expect you:

- To show up to class on time and ready to participate/listen.
- To be attentive and engaged for lectures and discussions
- To spend an appropriate amount of time on our readings, podcasts, videos, assignments, etc. each week.
- To turn in your quiz on time each week
- To do your quiz in the way it was intended: without notes and without "cheating"
- To engage with all parts of the material even if you may disagree
- To **ASK FOR HELP**.

You can expect me:

- To start and end class on time
- To answer emails within 24-48 hours during weekdays, and within 72 hours of weekends
- To assign readings, videos, movies, or podcasts that cover the material, are the appropriate reading level, and that are informative and engaging
- To give assignments that are fruitful, reflective of the material, and helpful to your overall construction of the course.
- Be available during the week to offer help

Signed (by professor): Madison E. Tarleton (she/her)

Signed (by student):