

Honors Religious Studies I: World Religions
Spring 2006I
Rels H233-033 TR 11:00 – 12:15 Marquette 401
Rels H233-034 TR 2:00 – 3:15 Marquette 406

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Wessinger
Office: Bobet 406
Office Tel: 865-3182
email: wessing@loyno.edu

OBJECTIVE: To acquaint the student with the primary religious traditions of the world to promote an awareness and understanding of the variety of the world's religions, their ultimate goals, cosmologies, understandings of human nature, and methodologies. This will entail exposure to the cultures that are the expressions of these religions via videos, digital images, study of their artistic expressions, scriptures, beliefs, and practices, and visits to worshipping/practicing communities. There will be a comparison of religious/cultural groups in order to understand their similarities and differences in the ways in which they address the human condition. Special attention will be paid to religions as sources of conflict, controversy, comfort and reconciliation in the world today. Research assignments will be focused on exploring religious responses to disaster in post-Katrina New Orleans congregations belonging to diverse faith traditions. [See *Religious Studies Dept. goals I, II, III, IV, V.*] Digital images taken by local professors and from the "On Common Ground" CD-Rom will be shown in addition to selected videos to illustrate the religions studied.

BOOKS: John L. Esposito, Darrell J. Fasching, Todd Lewis, *World Religions Today*
2d ed. (Oxford University Press, 2006). ESPOSITO

James Fieser and John Powers, *Scriptures of the World* (McGraw Hill, 1998). FIESER & POWERS.

T Jan. 10 Introductory class.

R Jan. 11 Introduction
ESPOSITO: "Introduction: Globalization: World Religions in Everyone's Hometown," 5-27.

T Jan. 17 Characteristics of Basic Religion; and Modernization
ESPOSITO: "Modern Colonialism, the Socialist Challenge, and the End of Modernity," "Post-Modern Trends in a Postcolonial World," 28-33.

R Jan. 19 **QUIZ 1: Introduction and Basic Religion**
Many Faces of Judaism: Sacred and Secular
ESPOSITO: Overview, 65-74; Premodern: Biblical, 74-82.
FIESER & POWERS, 255-97.

T Jan. 24 **TERM PAPER TOPIC MUST BE APPROVED BY THE INSTRUCTOR.
5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE PAPER'S FINAL GRADE FOR ANY
STUDENT WHO HAS NOT INDICATED TO THE INSTRUCTOR WHICH NEW
ORLEANS CONGREGATION WILL BE THE SELECTED RESEARCH SITE.
ONLY ONE STUDENT MAY RESEARCH ANY GIVEN CONGREGATION.**
Many Faces of Judaism: Sacred and Secular
ESPOSITO: From Torah to Talmud, Classical Era, Medieval Era, 82-102.
FIESER & POWERS, 297-316.

- R Jan. 26 Many Faces of Judaism: Sacred and Secular
 ESPOSITO: Modernity, Post-Modern Trends in a Postcolonial World, 102-28.
 FIESER & POWERS, 316-20.
 VIDEO: "Half the Kingdom" (60 min.)
- T Jan. 31 **Quiz 2: Judaism**
The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience
 ESPOSITO: Overview, Challenge of Western Colonialism, Formative Era, 195-217.
 FIESER & POWERS, 398-432.
- R Feb. 2 **TERM PAPER BIBLIOGRAPHY IS DUE, TYPED. It will not be graded. It will be returned to the student with the instructor's comments. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE GRADE OF THE FINAL TERM PAPER IF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY IS TURNED IN LATE.**
The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience
 ESPOSITO: Classical Era, 217-35.
 FIESER & POWERS, 432-54.
- T Feb. 7 No class.
- R Feb. 9 The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience
 ESPOSITO: Modernity, Postmodern Trends in a Postcolonial World, 235-60.
- T Feb. 14 The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience
 ESPOSITO: Postmodern Challenges, 260-67.
 VIDEO: "A Veiled Revolution" (30 min.)
- R Feb. 16 Quiz 3: Islam**
EXAM #1 Introduction, Judaism, Islam
 10 Identifications (5 pts. each) and one discussion question (25 pts.): total 75 pts.
- T Feb. 21 **RELIGIOUS VISIT PAPER DUE: 10 pts. (5 pts. will be deducted from the grade of late papers)**
 Presentations on Religious Visits.
- R Feb. 23 Presentations on Religious Visits.
- [F Oct. 14 M-T grades due]
- T Feb. 28 NO CLASS – MARDI GRAS
- R Mar. 2 Hinduism: Myriad Paths to Salvation
 ESPOSITO: Overview, Encountering Modernity: Hindu Challenges to India as a Secular State, 271-79.
 FIESER & POWERS, 1-7.
- T Mar. 7 Hinduism: Myriad Paths to Salvation
 ESPOSITO: Formative Era, Classical Era, 279-94.
 FIESER & POWERS, 7-41.
- R Mar. 9 Hinduism: Myriad Paths to Salvation

ESPOSITO: Postclassical Era, Modernity, 294-308.
FIESER & POWERS, 41-53.

T Mar. 14 Hinduism: Myriad Paths to Salvation
ESPOSITO: Postmodern Trends in a Postcolonial World, 308-37.
VIDEO: "330 Million Gods," (50 min.)

R Mar. 16 **Quiz 4 Hinduism**
Buddhism: Ways to Nirvana
ESPOSITO: Overview and Premodern: Theravada, 341-44, 349-66.
FIESER & POWERS, 72-97.

T Mar. 21 Buddhism: Ways to Nirvana
ESPOSITO: Pre-Modern: Mahayana and Vajrayana, 367-80.
FIESER & POWERS, 98-123.

R Mar. 23 Buddhism: Ways to Nirvana
ESPOSITO: Modernity, 346-48, 380-92.
VIDEO: "Peace Is Every Step" (52 min.)

T Mar. 28 Buddhism: Ways to Nirvana
ESPOSITO: Post-Modern Trends, 492-413.

R Mar. 30 Quiz 5 Buddhism
TERM PAPER DUE, TYPED & DOUBLE-SPACED.
Turn in two copies of the term paper. One copy will be graded by the instructor and returned to the student. The other copy will be kept by the instructor. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE FINAL GRADE OF ANY LATE TERM PAPERS.
Term Paper Presentations [Sec. 034: Video Conference course link with Marquette.]

T Apr. 4 Term Paper Presentations

R Apr. 6 Term Paper Presentations

T Apr. 11 Term Paper Presentations

R Apr. 13 NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK

T Apr. 18 Term Paper Presentations

R Apr. 20 Concluding discussion.

EXAM Sec. 033 Tuesday, April 25, 11:30 - 1:30
Sec. 034 Tuesday, April 25, 2:00 - 4:00

Course Requirements

There will be 2 Exams, each consisting of 10 identifications and one discussion question. Each Exam counts 75 pts.

There will be 5 quizzes. Each quiz will consist of 10 True-False statements counting .5 pt. each for a total of 5 pts. per quiz. The 5 quizzes together count 25 pts.

Discussion and class participation will be graded. Total discussion will count up to 20 pts. for the semester, 10 pts. prior to Mid-Term, and 10 pts. after Mid-Term. Attendance is considered in the discussion grade.

A discussion board will be set up for discussion of current events relating to religion and issues raised in class and by the readings. Participation on the discussion board will count up to 20 pts. for the semester, 10 pts. prior to Mid-Term, and 10 pts. after Mid-Term. Students are encouraged to post news articles and initiate threads on the discussion board. Students should plan to log into the discussion board at least three times a week for full participation.

There are two written assignments. The “Religious Visit Paper” is worth 10 pts. The term paper is worth 75 pts.

The “Religious Visit Paper,” (10 pts.) length 2-4 pages, is due on **Tuesday, February 21**, in typed, double-spaced format. The assignment is to attend a worship service of a religion that is different from the one in which you were raised. During your visit and in your report, pay particular attention to the impact of Katrina on the congregation and how the members of the congregation have responded to the disaster. We will discuss the visits in class on February 21 and 23. **5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE GRADE OF THE RELIGIOUS VISIT PAPER IF IT IS NOT TURNED IN ON FEBRUARY 21.**

Each student will write a term paper on a topic approved by the instructor. The term paper is worth 75 pts. The term paper will be 10-12 pages typed and double-spaced. The term paper should focus on the impact of Katrina on a congregation and the responses of members of the congregation to the disaster. Research should be done on the history of the relevant denomination, its typical beliefs, history of this particular congregation, the impact of Katrina on the congregation and what the members of the congregation are doing in response to the Katrina event. At least three interviews should be conducted with members of the congregation to ascertain their personal responses to the disaster and how they relate their responses to their faith. Crucial dates relative to the term paper are given below. **5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE FINAL GRADE OF THE TERM PAPER IF ANY OF THESE DEADLINES ARE MISSED.**

Students will give short summaries of what they learned in their research for the term papers on March 30, April 4, April 6, April 11, April 18, April 20. These presentations will be part of the discussion grade.

T Jan. 24 THE CONGREGATION FOR THE TERM PAPER RESEARCH MUST BE SELECTED. THIS WILL INVOLVE A PRIOR VISIT TO THE CONGREGATION, SPEAKING WITH ITS MINISTER/LEADER, AND ASCERTAINING WHETHER OR NOT THE CONGREGATION MEMBERS WILL COOPERATE WITH THE RESEARCH. THIS INITIAL VISIT COULD COUNT TOWARD THE RELIGIOUS VISIT PAPER, IF A WORSHIP SERVICE IS ATTENDED. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE PAPER’S FINAL GRADE FOR ANY STUDENT WHO HAS NOT REPORTED THE SELECTED CONGREGATION TO THE INSTRUCTOR BY THIS DATE. ONLY ONE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO RESEARCH ANY GIVEN CONGREGATION.

T Feb. 2 TERM PAPER BIBLIOGRAPHY IS DUE, TYPED. THE BIBLIOGRAPHY SHOULD INCLUDE SOURCES ON THE HISTORY OF THE DENOMINATION, THE HISTORY OF THE PARTICULAR CONGREGATION, INDICATION OF

WHICH MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION WILL BE INTERVIEWED. It will not be graded. It will be returned to the students with the instructor's comments. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE GRADE OF THE FINAL TERM PAPER IF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY IS TURNED IN LATE.

R Mar. 30 TERM PAPER IS DUE, TYPED & DOUBLE-SPACED. Turn in two copies of the term paper. One copy will be graded by the instructor and returned to the student. The other copy will be kept by the instructor. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE FINAL GRADE OF ANY LATE TERM PAPERS.

The grading scale follows:

300 pts. cumulative

A - 92%	276-300
B - 83%	249-275.5
C - 71%	213-248.5
D - 65%	195-212.5

Make-up quizzes and exams will be given *only* in the case of severe illness or family emergency. In either case, the student should call the instructor at once to notify her of the nature of the emergency.