

**HUMI 09 -- Comparative Religion – 6 wk Online – Summer 2020 - 4 units**

**Best way to reach me is Canvas messaging Inbox (response w/in 24 hours)**

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**De Anza Disability Support Services: <https://www.deanza.edu/dss/>**

**De Anza Plagiarism Policy: <http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/boardrebecca/plagiarism.html>**

- *Whether one believes in a religion or not, and whether one believes in rebirth or not, there isn't anyone who doesn't appreciate kindness and compassion.* -Dalai Lama
- *God is a metaphor for that which transcends all levels of intellectual thought. It's as simple as that.* -Joseph Campbell
- *All religions must be tolerated... for every man must get to heaven in his own way.* - Epictetus
- *The important thing is this: To be able, at any moment, to sacrifice what we are for what we could become.* -- Maharishi Mahesh Yogi
- *The Kingdom of Heaven is not a place, but a state of mind.* -John Burroughs

**Course Description:**

This course examines the religious dimension of human life and experience, focusing on the religious language, attitudes, images, myths, metaphors, symbols, and rituals relating to the history and practice of religion. We will study how women and men throughout history and across cultures have lived and expressed a religious faith based on their sense of the sacred. Specifically, this course will focus on the oral, tribal religions, and on both Eastern and Western religions.

**Course Objectives:**

The student will be able to:

- \* Compare and contrast the variety of ways in which the religious dimension of human existence is expressed and lived from pre-modern times through the present;
- \* Examine, analyze, and compare different types of religious consciousness;
- \* Examine, analyze, and compare religious faiths from several cultures and time periods;
- \* Identify and evaluate similar modern and contemporary patterns in different religions;
- \* Open and expand both mind and heart to the diversity that exists among human beings.

**Required Reading:**

Smith, Huston (2009). **The World's Religions** HarperOne; 50 Anniversary edition (other editions ok, except for the shorter, illustrated edition)

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students synthesize their critical thinking, imaginative, cooperative, and empathetic abilities as whole persons in order to contextualize knowledge, interpret and communicate meaning, and cultivate their capacity for personal, as well as social change.
2. Students will facilitate understanding between persons of various religious traditions.
3. Students will critique the complexities within each religious tradition in order to engage others in meaningful dialogue regarding values and controversies.

### **Weekly Discussion Participation (460 pts):**

- Each week, you'll read the weekly assignments and then **answer the discussion questions posted on Canvas by Thursday night. Your initial responses should be around ~175 words per question**;
- **You'll then have until Sunday to respond to (at least) one classmate per question. Your responses to your classmates should be ~75 words.**
- Most weeks have 10 questions. **This means 10 initial responses + 10 responses to classmates = 20 posts per week** (more is ok too). The first week has fewer.
- You may be dropped from the class from non-participation if you do not log on for 7 straight days.
- Posts are graded both on quantity and quality. Posts must be both thorough and thoughtful, demonstrating engagement with the concepts and complexity of thought.
- **\*Weekly discussion grades will be posted by end of the week.**

**Final essay exam (40 pts):** There will be a final essay exam due, for which you will write an in-depth analysis of what you have learned about the topic of the readings. This Final paper will be a synthesis of your learning from the entire course. This analysis should include the main ideas from the reading on each of the covered religions, but should also describe how these ideas relate to your previous learning, your own life experience, and your personal thoughts and feelings. *The paper should be a total of 4 full pages, double-spaced (12 font).*

### **Course Requirements**

Weekly Discussion Responses: 10 pts/question x 46 questions= 460 pts

Final essay exam = 40 points

**Total points = 500**

A-=90%; A=93%; A+=98%

B-=80%; B=83%; B+=88%

C=70%; C+=78%

D-=60%; D=63%; D+=68%

F=<60%

### **Course Outline:**

**Week 1:** *World's Religions* – Ch. I. Point of Departure & Ch. II. Hinduism

**Week 2:** Ch. III. Buddhism & Ch. IV. Confucianism

**Week 3:** Ch. V. Taoism & Ch. VII. Judaism

**Week 4:** Ch. VIII. Christianity & Ch. IX. Primal Religions

**Week 5:** Ch. VI Islam & Ch. X. A Final Examination

**Week 6:** **Final Essay due**

### **GETTING STARTED:**

1. **Purchase Required Book** and begin reading.
2. **Login To Canvas.** Become familiar with site & features.
3. **Discussion** will begin immediately during the first week.
4. **Briefly Introduce Yourself** in the student introduction link; upload profile photo.
5. **Participate weekly** in online discussions.

### **Re: DROPS**

It is the responsibility of the student (not the instructor), to officially drop a class via phone, Internet or registrar's office up until the last day to drop a class. After that date, student will be graded on points accumulated, even if grade is D or F. However, Instructor reserves the right to drop a student who does not appear to be participating or is not keeping up with scheduled tests and assignments. The instructor reserves the right to drop any enrolled student who does not login to Canvas by Friday of the first week of classes.

### **Re: ADDS**

Instructor will email add codes to students in response to their email request. Students must register within 24 hours of receiving add code, or instructor may reassign add code to the next student on the list. Students must pay all fees according to college policy or other agreements, or the registrar will drop them from all classes and/or block student add codes.

### **De Anza Plagiarism**

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