

RELG 102 - Fall 2016 - MWF 11:00  
**Introduction to World Religions**

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office: 252 Stansbury Hall  
office hours: M 2:30-3:20  
& by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course is both an introduction to World Religions and a introduction to the academic study of those religions. We will explore the history and development of religions around the world, and examine how those traditions are practiced today in a variety of contexts.

**Course Objectives:**

- Gain a basic understanding of the major world religions.
  - Explore how different situations, times, and places impact the development and practice of religion.
  - Examine themes and ideas which may impact the practice of religions worldwide.
  - Become aware of the diversity of religious ideas and practices in the world today.
  - Engage critically with the ideas and issues in Religious Studies as a discipline.
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**Required Texts:**

- Mary Pat Fisher, *Living Religions: A Brief Introduction* (3rd edition, 2012)
  - Handouts and articles on eCampus as assigned
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**Evaluation:**

Exams (four total, drop lowest) 25% per exam = 75% total

Objective (multiple choice, short answer, and/or matching) exams, in-class. Please make doubly sure your phones are off and put away during exams.

Final: 25% of grade

In-class exam, cumulative (with emphasis on last section of the course)

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**Attendance and Participation Policy:**

I do not take daily attendance. You are responsible for completing the readings, coming to class, and being prepared to participate in discussion. I may assign in-class discussion questions, which will count as “participation” and noted in the grade book; in the cases of borderline grades, participation in class will be a deciding factor.

I do not distinguish between absences: everyone gets to drop one of the four semester exams. Because of this, makeup work or advance exams will only be allowed under extreme circumstances and are granted at my sole discretion. Exams taken outside the normal time may be short essays instead of multiple choice.

Please note that this policy applies to *all* students: if you are participating in sports or other semester-long commitments (including military service) please email me to discuss your schedule of absences at the beginning of the semester. One schedule conflict due to any long-term commitments will be treated as above.

## **General Guidelines:**

- All emails must be sent from your campus email address. Most disposable email accounts are set up to go directly to my junk mail.
  - Emails should include your full name, course number, and section (these can all be in your signature).
  - I will usually respond to emails within a few hours during the week. If you email me at night/on weekends, I may not respond until the next morning/weekday.
  - Please follow normal rules of grammar, and spell-check your emails.
  - In general: remember that your emails contribute to peoples' impression of you, and of your work. Emails with no subject line, no greeting, and one sentence ("what u want us to do 4 class tomrrow,") do not create a good impression.
  - Do not text in class: I will ask you to leave the classroom. If you need to keep your cell phone on, please have it set to silent mode, and leave the classroom if you need to take a call. If you text during an exam, I will ask you to leave the classroom and collect your exam at that time.
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## **Social Justice Statement:**

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services (304-293-6700). For more information on West Virginia University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see <http://diversity.sandbox.wvu.edu/ddei>.

## **Academic Integrity & Dishonesty:**

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspect and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of WVU regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing actions, please see the Student Conduct Code: [http://studentlife.wvu.edu/office\\_of\\_student\\_conduct/student\\_conduct\\_code](http://studentlife.wvu.edu/office_of_student_conduct/student_conduct_code)

Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see me before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

**Grading Scale:** Please note, professors at WVU are free to assign + and - grades on STAR, even though the standard system calculates those grades simply as 4.0, 3.0, 2.0, etc. Other systems (for example, graduate schools) may calculate grades differently than WVU. "Borderline" grades, as referenced above, means grades on or between one of these levels.

93 - 100	A
90 - 92.9	A-
87 - 89.9	B+
83 - 86.9	B
80 - 82.9	B-
77 - 79.9	C+
73 - 76.9	C
70 - 72.9	C-
67 - 69.9	D+
60 - 66.9	D
59.9 and below	F