

## RLS 1200G INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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Tele.: 581-8468      Hours: 10-11 MWF, 1-2 Thurs. (Or by Appt.)

This course provides an introduction to world religions such as Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Students will examine various ways of understanding world religions and gain an appreciation for the nature and variety of religious experience.

### **Grading and Course Instructions:**

There will be three one-hour tests and a final exam, each of which will be primarily essay in nature and worth one-fourth of the course grade. These are the only graded assignments in this course: there are no extra credit assignments, homework, papers, etc. Since philosophy classes benefit from class interaction, students who participate constructively in class may be given a bonus on their final grade.

### **Academic integrity:**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards. In addition, anyone cheating on any exam will receive an "F" for the semester.

### **Students with disabilities:**

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

### **The Student Success Center:**

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

### **Textbooks:**

The textbooks for this course are:

Fieser and Powers *Scriptures of the World's Religions*

Kessler *Studying Religion*

Smith *The World's Religions*

### **Reading Assignments:**

Since this class will put an emphasis on analysis and discussion, exact reading assignments will not be given at the beginning of the semester, to allow greater flexibility. All assignments will be given either one or two periods in advance.

## **TENTATIVE general schedule:**

**Background and Introduction:** What is “religious studies”? What are “Exclusivism” and “Inclusivism”? What is a “religion”? Etc. **3 periods**

### **INDIAN RELIGION (HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM):**

**Hinduism 2 periods**

**Sikhism 1 period**

**Buddhism 3 periods**

**First Exam: End of Week 4 [Approx. Date Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>]**

### **CHINESE RELIGION (CONFUCIANISM AND TAOISM):**

**Confucianism 3 periods**

**Taoism 2 periods**

**Second Exam: Week 8 [Approx. Date Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>]**

### **ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS (JUDAISM, ISLAM, CHRISTIANITY)**

**Judaism: 3 periods**

**Islam: 4 periods**

**Third Exam: End of Week 11 [Approx. Date Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>]**

**Christianity: 4 periods**

**Christian Sects: 1 period**

**Indigenous Religions (The Primal Religions): 1 period**

**FINAL EXAM: FINALS WEEK [MONDAY, December 11<sup>th</sup>: 10:15 AM]**