

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Fall 2022
Discipline:	Philosophy
Course Number and Title:	PHIL 174 World Religions (Section 1 and 2)
Division:	Lower
Faculty Name:	Stephen Jenkins
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an expansive survey of the religious traditions that inspired the civilizations that we will visit. Like the voyage itself, in addition to being a learning experience about other worlds, it will also be a journey of self-discovery. In terms of insight, we will make a special effort to deepen our critical self-consciousness through looking at ourselves as interpreters of radically different visions of reality, and questioning the history of our own culture's often tragi-comic encounters with other worlds. The course aspires to transform your vision of your own reality and your ability to read into the realities of others. In terms of knowledge, this course is a broad multidimensional introduction to the diverse religious traditions of the worlds we will encounter, and will be supported by direct experience of the living traditions. We will attend not only to classical traditions and origins, but also to topical issues and current responses to the challenge of modernity in each of our voyage's destinations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Acquire knowledge of the basic tenets of the major religious traditions of the world.
2. Analyze various texts, including foundational scriptures and ritual practices from each religion, while learning about and applying some of the tools employed in religious studies to understand the nature and development of religious traditions.
3. Develop critical self-consciousness regarding the fundamental presuppositions of our own worldview and how those presuppositions condition our perception and interaction with those who do not share them.
4. Explore the existential implications of various life proposals and conceptions of reality found within religious traditions.
5. Develop an appreciation of the wide range of the religious dimensions of religious cultures and develop a deep understanding of human difference.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES

AUTHOR: Mary Pat Fisher
TITLE: *Living Religions*
PUBLISHER: Pearson
ISBN-13: 978-0134169248
ISBN-10: 0134169247
DATE/EDITION: June 21/2017/10th Edition*

*[Students are encouraged to buy any past edition of this text to save money.]

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Embarkation Day – September 9

- 1: What is Religion and Who are we to ask?
Voyage Community Values
Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 1, pp.16-42
Jenkins, "Black Ships, Blavatsky and the Pizza Effect"
- 2: Judaism: The Primacy of the Word
Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 8
- 3: Judaism: The Power of Prophecy
Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 8
Recommended *Living Religions*, Special Section – Zoroastrianism
- 4: Christianity: Who was Jesus?
Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 9
- 5: Christianity: The New Testament
Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 9
- 6: Christianity: Christian Mysticism
Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 9
- 7: Review and Consolidation
- 8: Exam #1.
- 9: Islam: Muhammad and the Quran
Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 10
- 10: Islam: The Five Pillars
Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 10

11: Reading:	Islam: Sufi Mysticism <i>Living Religions</i> , Chapter 10
12: Reading:	Hinduism: Gaṇeśa "The Worship of Ganesha," Courtright, 160-176.
13: Reading:	Hinduism: Viṣṇu <i>Living Religions</i> , Chapter 3
14: Reading:	Hinduism: Śiva and His Son Murugan <i>Living Religions</i> , Chapter 3
15: Reading:	The Hindu Goddess <i>Living Religions</i> , Chapter 3
16:	Review and Consolidation
17:	Exam #2
18: Reading:	Buddhism: Who Was the Buddha? <i>Living Religions</i> , Chapter 5
19: Reading:	Buddhism: Basic Teachings <i>Living Religions</i> , Chapter 5
20: Reading:	Mahāyāna Buddhism <i>Living Religions</i> , Chapter 5
21: Reading:	Saviors, Heaven Realms, and Pure Lands Jenkins, "Heavenly Rebirth and Buddhist Soteriology"
22: Reading:	Taoism and Confucianism <i>Living Religions</i> , Chapter 6
23:	Consolidation and Review
24	Final Exam
25	FINAL CLASS: Closure and Final thoughts

Disembarkation Day – December 22

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete a Comparative Experiential Project that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

STUDENTS: Field Class proposals listed below are not finalized. Confirmed ports, dates, and times will be posted to the [Fall 22 Courses and Field Class page](#) when available.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.

Field Classes constitute 20% of the contact hours for each course.

Field Class Title: **Sacred Space and Religious Experience**

Activities: Visit Cathedrals, churches, mosques, temples and synagogues.

Outcomes: Students will learn how architecture and the use of images [or the lack of them] express religious values. They will learn to understand sacred images as visual scriptures and touchstones for sacred power and contrast those traditions who value that power with those who find it dangerous. Students will learn how sacred spaces shape and structure religious practice. Students will learn how religions employ the "toolbox of religious experience" in material culture to make use of each of the senses. Develop an appreciation and enjoyment of the aesthetic beauty in the artistic expressions of religious values.

Assessment: Please see the description of the comparative experiential project below.

Comparative Experiential Project

The CEP is the required comparative assignment that span multiple countries. The Comparative Experiential Project constitutes at least 5% of the grade for each course.

Students will visit one sacred site of three different world religions in three different countries, one of which is the field class. Such sites may include mosques, churches, synagogues and pilgrimage sites such as graves of saints. After consultation and approval of the professor, they may substitute another opportunity, such as a festival, ritual, or religious service. Students are required to create a portfolio of photographs and a field journal entry for each site guided by a rubric provided by the professor. Each journal entry should be 2-3 pages in length. State where you went, the date of your visit, what port it was, and what religious tradition with which the site is associated. You should make field notes either during or immediately after your visit. When you adapt your notes to a journal entry, try to describe everything that you saw and did. What did you learn? What did you observe? What were people doing? How were they dressed? Were there women? Children? Did you talk to anyone? You are also encouraged to be reflective of your experience. Finally, how did your experience of this tradition compare to the description in your textbook? What was similar and what was different? One of the three sites must be the required Field Class.

At the end of the course, journal entries will be evaluated based on:

- 1) apparent effort in conducting and recording field work
- 2) effective writing
- 3) your ability to apply appropriate terms and concepts from readings and lectures to your own observations of religious practices and places of worship or reverence.

In addition to providing a basis for evaluation, part of our goal here is for you to take home a record of your experience to share and cherish.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Attendance and participation	10%
Comparative Experiential Project	10%
Exam #1	20%
Field Class	20%
Exam #2	20%
Final Exam	20%

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the academic partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

CLASSROOM CLIMATE

Semester at Sea is committed to the Voyage Community Values. Consequently, the classroom environment is founded on mutual respect, community, and an aim toward

equity. The Voyage Community Values support the creation of a collaborative and vibrant community. Our community is the foundation of our learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Each member of this course has a responsibility to uphold these values when engaging with one another.

With that, please review the following Voyage Community Values:

- Well-Being: We commit to the health, safety and well-being of ourselves, all members of our voyage community, *and* members of the communities we will visit.
- Interconnectedness: We understand our actions and attitudes have an impact locally and globally. We always seek to positively affect the planet and the people around us near and far.
- Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of *all people* with an abiding commitment to freedom of expression, scholarly discourse and the advancement of knowledge. We have the right to be treated, and the responsibility to treat others, with fairness and equity.
- Inclusion: We ensure inclusive environments that welcome, value, affirm and embrace *all people* within the shipboard community and in each country we visit.
- Integrity: We are honest and ethical in all of our interactions, including our academic work. We hold ourselves accountable for our actions.
- Excellence: We model the highest academic standards of preparation, inquiry and knowledge and consistently seek to understand complex issues and express informed opinions with courage and conviction.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from students' home institutions verifying the accommodations received on their home campuses (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit verification of accommodations to their Student Services advisor as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage. More details can be found within the Course Registration Packet, as posted to student portal prior to registration.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea[®] courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

TBD

FILMS

TBD

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

TBD