Northern Virginia Community College  
REL 231 001A World Religions I  
Spring 2013

**SYLLABUS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Week Beginning Date</th>
<th>Readings/Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tue., January 15</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 1: The Religious Response</td>
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| Activities                   | • Introduction and Course orientation  
|                              | • Blackboard overview  
| Lecture                      | • Academic Study of Religion; Methods for Understanding and Explaining Religion; Disciplinary Outline of the Field of Religious Studies  
|                              | • Chapter 1: Objectives  
| Blackboard                   | • *The Religious Response: An Introduction to Religion in General*  
|                              | • Vocabulary for chapter 1  
|                              | • *Readings from An Anthology of Living Religions* chapter 1  
| Discussion Board (Computer or mobile device) | • Explain the conflicts between science and myths of religion with specific references. Describe Michael Ruse’s fourfold ways to describe the relationship between religion and science. In your own views explain areas where science and religion can work together. *(Due: Monday, Jan. 28, 11:59 p.m.)* |
| **Tue., January 22**         | Chapter 2: Indigenous Sacred Ways |
| Activities                   | • Answers to any questions from last class  
|                              | • Review of chapter 1 vocabulary  
| Lecture                      | • Chapter 2: Objectives  
| Blackboard                   | • *The Indigenous Sacred Ways*  
|                              | • *Readings from An Anthology of Living Religions* chapter 2  
<p>| Discussion Board (Computer or mobile device) | • What have been the major threats to the survival of indigenous religions? How are followers of these religions managing to maintain the ancient traditions in a modern world? <em>(Due: Monday, Feb. 4, 11:59 p.m.)</em> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter 3: Hinduism</th>
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| **Tue., January 29** | **Activities** | - Answers to any questions from last class  
- Review of vocabulary from last class  
- Video on Hinduism  
| **Lecture** | - Chapter 3: Objectives  
- Chapter 3: Hinduism  |
| **Tue., February 5** | **Chapter 3: Hinduism (contd.)** | **Activities** | - Answers to any questions from last class  
- Review of vocabulary from last class  |
| **Lecture** | - Chapter 3: Hinduism  
- Readings from *An Anthology of Living Religions* chapter 3 - *The Secular Face of Hinduism* by Joseph Vellaringan  
- Readings from *An Anthology of Living Religions* chapter 3 - *Without Krishna I Cannot Sleep* by Mirabai  |
| **Blackboard** | **Discussion Board** (Computer or mobile device) | - Discuss the relationship of the caste system to the Hindu concept of dharma. Include a discussion of the religious roles of women.  
(Due: Monday, Feb. 11, 11:59 p.m.)  |
| **Journal** | **Journal entry (Hinduism)** (Computer or mobile device) | - Creed: What is the divine? What is the humanity? What is the nature? What is salvation?  
- Code: How one should live?  
- Cult: How one should worship? What should one worship?  
- Scriptures: What are the holy writings?  
- Community: How is the religious group understood? How is it related to others?  
(Due: Monday, Feb. 18, 11:59 p.m.)  |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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| Tue, February 12 | Chapter 4: Jainism             | Activities: Answers to any questions from last class, Review of vocabulary from last class  
Lecture: Chapter 4: Objectives, Chapter 4: Jainism, *Readings from An Anthology of Living Religions* chapter 4 - *Perfection of the soul*  
Blackboard: Discussion Board (Jainism) (Computer or mobile device) - Explain the Jain concept of karma. How is it different from the Hindu version? What particular kinds of behavior have Jains adopted to avoid accumulating karma? (Due: Monday, Feb. 25, 11:59 p.m.)  
Journal: Journal entry (Jainism) (Computer or mobile device) - Creed: What is the divine? What is the humanity? What is the nature? What is salvation? Code: How one should live? Cult: How one should worship? What should one worship? Scriptures: What are the holy writings? Community: How is the religious group understood? How is it related to others? (Due: Monday, Mar. 4, 11:59 p.m.)
| Tue, February 19 | Chapter 5: Buddhism             | Activities: Answers to any questions from last class, Review of vocabulary from last class, Final review for quiz 1, **QUIZ 1**, Video on Buddhism  
Lecture: Chapter 5: Objectives  
| Tue, February 26 | Chapter 5: Buddhism (contd.)    | Activities: Go over quiz 1 in class, Answers to any questions from last class, Review of vocabulary from last class, Final review for exam 1, **EXAM 1**  
Lecture: Chapter 5: Buddhism |
### Tue., March 5

**Chapter 5: Buddhism [includes Zen Buddhism] (contd.)**

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<th>Journal</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Answers to any questions from last class&lt;br&gt;- Review of vocabulary from last class&lt;br&gt;- <em>Readings from An Anthology of Living Religions</em> chapter 5 - <em>North American Buddhism: Looking Forward</em> by Charles Prebish</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion Board</strong> (Computer or mobile device)&lt;br&gt;- Explain the similarities and differences between the Buddhist and Jain views of karma. <em>(Due: Monday, Mar. 18, 11:59 p.m.)</em></td>
<td><strong>Journal entry (Buddhism)</strong> (Computer or mobile device)&lt;br&gt;- <strong>Creed:</strong> What is the divine? What is the humanity? What is the nature? What is salvation?&lt;br&gt;- <strong>Code:</strong> How one should live?&lt;br&gt;- <strong>Cult:</strong> How one should worship? What should one worship?&lt;br&gt;- <strong>Scriptures:</strong> What are the holy writings?&lt;br&gt;- <strong>Community:</strong> How is the religious group understood? How is it related to others? <em>(Due: Monday, Mar. 25, 11:59 p.m.)</em></td>
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### March 11-17

**SPRING BREAK**

### Tue., March 19

**Chapter 11: Sikhism**

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<td>- Answers to any questions from last class&lt;br&gt;- Review of vocabulary from last class&lt;br&gt;- <strong>Video on Sikhism</strong></td>
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### Tue., March 26

**Chapter 11: Sikhism (contd.)**

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<th>Activities</th>
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<td>- Answers to any questions from last class&lt;br&gt;- Review of vocabulary from last class&lt;br&gt;- <em>Readings from An Anthology of Living Religions</em> chapter 11 - <em>Writings of the Tenth Guru: Dasam Granth</em></td>
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<td><strong>Discussion Board</strong> (Computer or mobile device)&lt;br&gt;- Compare and contrast the religious elements of Hinduism that are found in Sikhism. <em>(Due: Monday, Apr. 1, 11:59 p.m.)</em></td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Chapter: Daoism and Confucianism (contd.)</td>
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| Tue., April 2 | **Activities** | • Answers to any questions from last class  
• Review of vocabulary from last class  
• Final review for quiz 2  
**QUIZ 2**  
• Chapter 6: Objectives  
• Chapter 6: Daoism |
|            | **Lecture** |                                             |
|            | **Blackboard** |                                             |

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<th>Date</th>
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| Tue., April 9 | **Activities** | • Answers to any questions from last class  
• Review quiz 2  
• Final review for exam 2  
**EXAM 2**  
- Readings from *An Anthology of Living Religions* chapter 6 - *Daoism, The Traditional Canon* and *The Dao de jing* by Laozi  
- Readings from *An Anthology of Living Religions* chapter 6 - *Daoism, The Traditional Canon* and *The Dao de jing* by Laozi  
• Chapter 6: Confucianism |
|            | **Lecture** |                                             |
|            | **Blackboard** |                                             |

**Discussion Board** (Computer or mobile device)  
• Explain the yin-yang principle. What is the name of the Taoist scripture? How did it come about and what does it contain? Explain the three meanings of Tao. *(Due: Monday, Apr. 15, 11:59 p.m.)*

**Discussion Board** (Computer or mobile device)  
• Explain the yin-yang principle. What is the name of the Taoist scripture? How did it come about and what does it contain? Explain the three meanings of Tao. *(Due: Monday, Apr. 22, 11:59 p.m.)*

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<th>Date</th>
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| Tue., April 16 | **Activities** | • Go over Exam 2 in class  
• Answers to any questions from last class  
• Review of vocabulary from last class  
• Readings from *An Anthology of Living Religions* chapter 6 - *The Analects of Confucius*  
• Video on Shintoism |
|            |                     | *(continued on the next page)*
### Tue., April 16

| Lecture | Chapter 7: Objectives  
Chapter 7: Shintoism |
| --- | --- |
| Blackboard | **Discussion Board (Shintoism)**  (Computer or mobile device)  
- Why was the indigenous religion of Japan named Shinto? What does Shinto mean? Name the three central aspects of path of Shinto? What is kami? Describe the Shinto cosmology. Include a discussion on the mythology of kami. (**Due: Monday, Apr. 22, 11:59 p.m.**)

| Journal | **Journal entry (Shintoism)**  (Computer or mobile device)  
- **Creed:** What is the divine? What is the humanity? What is the nature? What is salvation?  
- **Code:** How one should live?  
- **Cult:** How one should worship? What should one worship?  
- **Scriptures:** What are the holy writings?  
- **Community:** How is the religious group understood? How is it related to others? (**Due: Monday, April 29, 11:59 p.m.**)

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### Tue., April 23

| Activities | • Answers to any questions from last class  
• Review of vocabulary from last class  
• Readings from An Anthology of Living Religions chapter 6 - Confucianism and the Twenty-first Century by Xinzhong Yao  
• Readings from An Anthology of Living Religions chapter 7 - Scriptural sources, Purification and Shrine worship  

| Lecture | • Chapter 7: Shintoism (contd.) |

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### Tue., April 30

| Activities | • Answers to any questions from last class  
• Review of vocabulary from last class  
• Readings from An Anthology of Living Religions chapter 12 - Principles of Wiccan Belief by The American Council of Witches  
• **QUIZ 3** |

| Lecture | • Chapter 12: Objectives  
• Chapter 12: New Religious Movements  
• Chapter 13: Objectives  
• Chapter 13: Religion in the Twenty-first Century |

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### Tue., May 7

| • **EXAM 3** |