



PRAIRIE COLLEGE

ONLINE EDUCATION COURSE SYLLABUS

IS 140 World Religions

3 credit hours

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Description:

In order to be an effective witness for Christ today a student needs to have a basic understanding of the beliefs/doctrines and practices of the major world religions. We will not cover any form of Christianity because you have the opportunity to learn about that in many other courses. In addition to this survey of ideas, philosophy, doctrine, and major practices of the main religions, we will also discuss how our Gospel witness can be/should be contextualized to people from a particular world religion.

In each unit, you will find additional readings from the different religions' sacred scriptures and a number of video clips. In order to do well on your quizzes, research paper, and final exam you need to read all of the scripture portions and watch all of the videos.

Course Objectives:

After completing the course you will be able to

- Identify the main founders or influencers, the main doctrines and scriptures, the main rituals, and important vocabulary for each of the world religions
- Articulate with sympathetic understanding the various dimensions of the major religious worldviews
- Analyze distinctions and similarities between world religions
- Think globally and engage cross-culturally for the purpose of Christian mission
- Engage in an informed dialogue with participants from the different religions

Required Text:

Corduan, Winfried. *Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions*, 2nd Edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

1) Quizzes - 30%

- a) You will have 5 quizzes to complete—one after each **major** religion section (Units 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10). Each quiz will have about 10 short questions. The questions will come from the textbook and video clips and other Internet resources. However, the questions will not be about minor details but about the founder, main doctrine, practice, terminology used and/or area of the world. You will only have 10 minutes to finish a quiz. You need to know what time frame the religion began but not exact dates. When you write your quizzes you will also be asked to sign your name on a sheet of paper guaranteeing that you took the quizzes without using any

resources. Take a picture of the paper with your statement and signature and upload the picture file where indicated in the unit.

2) Reflection Papers - 10%

- a) Both before and as you read and watch the videos about each religion, keep a journal about what you think, feel, and have questions about. These journal notes will assist you in completing the five required reflection papers. (You do not hand in the journal notes.) See Appendix 1 for the rubric.
- b) You will be graded on the depth of your reflections. This is why it is important to hand in one reflection at a time so you can get feedback on how to receive a good grade.

3) Research Paper - 30%

- You will choose one major practice from the textbook's main religions.
 - Make sure you thoroughly understand the meaning behind the practice. Gaining this understanding requires that you research the religion and that particular practice—you must read where in the original texts the practice is explained. For example, if you choose to research prayer in Islam, you will need to read the relevant *suras* and verses in the Quran and some hadith.
 - You will then analyze the practice and the meaning in the light of biblical teaching.
 - You will also include a discussion on whether or not this practice or meaning can be altered to become acceptable for Christians. Naturally, you must show proof for your decision.
 - Thus, the thesis for your paper could be something like “the Sikh practice of can be adjusted for use in Christian worship.” The rest of the paper clearly lays out what the practice is and whether or not it can be used in Christian worship, and your reasons for this conclusion.
 - You will use a minimum of 4 different scholarly sources, including your text book. Note that Wikipedia does not qualify. Your paper should be 6-10 pages in addition to a title page and References Cited page. Note, the References Cited page is one alphabetized list.
 - If you have a question about this, email me at emmakarin.emgard@prairie.edu.
- a) See Appendix 2 for guidelines for writing a research paper and Appendix 3 for a rubric how the grading is done.
 - b) **Make sure you are aware of the plagiarism policy.** If you include a quote, use quotation marks; if you paraphrase, make sure you reference it as a paraphrase not a quote. Make sure the paraphrase is in your own words. See the Prairie College Academic Guide for more information.

4) Final Exam - 30%

- a) The final exam is a closed book exam and you must arrange for a proctor to supervise you when you write the exam. Your proctor should be a responsible adult not related to you and a person in authority such as a pastor, chaplain, church leader, administrator, school teacher or college professor. Email online.ed@prairie.edu with the name and email address of your chosen exam proctor **one week before you wish to write the exam**, or phone 1-800-785-4226. The Distance Education office will contact your proctor with instructions and provide him or her with the password which will allow you access to the exam.
Anything from the textbook or Internet assignments can be on the exam. It will be mostly short questions and some multiple-choice questions. There will be no long essay questions.

Course Evaluation

Quizzes (5)	30%
Reflections (5)	10%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade	Rating	Point Value
A+	90-100		4.0
A	85-89	Excellent	4.0
A-	80-84		3.7
B+	77-79		3.7
B	73-76	Good	3.0
B-	70-72		2.7
C+	67-69		2.3
C	63-66	Satisfactory	2.0
C-	60-62		1.7
D+	55-59		1.3
D	50-54	Poor	1.0
F	0-49	Failure	
P	50 or above	Pass	
A	-----	Audit	
I	-----	Incomplete	
W	-----	Withdrew	

Numerical course grades are not rounded

Turnitin Statement

This course makes use of Turnitin, a third-party application that helps maintain standards of excellence in academic integrity. Student work will be submitted to Turnitin when uploaded as an assignment in Brightspace. In doing so, students' work will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

Turnitin compares student work to a vast range of available sources and submits an originality report. Turnitin does not judge whether a student's work has been plagiarized or not but demonstrates to the instructor which sections of a student's work are similar or exact copies of pre-existing material.

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