

World Religions Syllabus and Schedule Overview
REL 102: World Religions- Online
Winter 2015 (December 16-January 7)

Instructor: Wynter Miller, M. Res.-Religious Studies

E-Mail: wynter.miller@westminster-mo.edu

Contact: You may e-mail me with issues regarding class. If you would like to speak live, we may schedule a skype meeting.

Course Description:

Students will be introduced to the academic field of Religious Studies through a brief overview of various religious traditions of the world. Students will explore these religions from a variety of perspectives including historical, philosophical, ethnographic and literary methods. In addition throughout the course, students will be asked to participate in tasks that will actively engage them in various elements of the religious traditions. Topics to be covered are: Methods of Studying Religion, Indigenous Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This course meets the requirement of a course with a non-Western focus in the "Cultural Diversity and Global Interdependence" context of Tier II of the New Foundations curriculum.

Course Text:

Mary Pat Fischer. Living Religions, 9th edition

Assessment:

Living Religion Activities

Discussion Threads

2 papers

6 Quizzes

–

Description of Major Assignments:

Living Religion Activities- Students will be given small tasks asking them to actively engage with some element of a tradition being covered that week. Living Religion Activities will be due on Sunday at midnight of each week.

Weekly Discussion Threads- Two discussion prompts will be posted for each chapter. Students will be required respond to both the original prompt and twice to their peers' responses. A minimum of three critical posts will be required per discussion thread.

Essays- Students will be required to compose 2 essays of 4-6 pages in length. They will be comparative in nature requiring that students synthesize knowledge from multiple traditions. Essays will be due on Sundays at midnight.

Quizzes- These must be completed by Sunday at midnight each week and will cover material from readings and presentations. Quizzes are open book.

Extra-credit work: Up to 15 points of extra credit will be allowed for each student. EC will not necessarily be assigned, but students are able to propose extra credit assignments. EC will be discussed on an individual basis.

Class Netiquette: Your course instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambience.

Notes:

Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me to arrange an appointment at his/her earliest convenience. At that time, we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore possible accommodations.

Westminster's ADA policy can be found at the College's website.

The Westminster Honour Code applies to all work in the course.

Federal Credit Hour Policy:

Federal credit hour policies require that students complete a total of 45 hours of work for each academic credit they receive. For a 3-credit course, that means a total of 135 hours. Below is a guide for how this time will be distributed throughout this course.