



# Great World Religions

## Philosophy 243.50

### Winter 2019

**Number of Credits:** 3

**Office:** NA

**Days Class Meets:** Mondays and Wednesdays

**Contact Phone:** NA

**Meeting Times:** 6:00 pm to 8:57 pm

**Contact Email:** hicksbradley@jccmi.edu

**Location:** James McDivitt, Room 211

**Office Hours:** 5:30 to 6pm and 9pm to 9:30pm  
on evenings the class meets, in our classroom

**Instructor:** Brad Hicks

**Online:** NA

### Course Description

The course will provide students with a global perspective on the human religious experience through an introductory examination of the beliefs and practices of the world's largest religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

### Prerequisite(s)

ENG 085 and ENG 090

### Course Goals

The course will introduce students to the basic concepts and vocabulary that define and describe the religions noted above. Students will read portions of sacred scriptures and provide written reports that analyze the texts and apply the truths of the texts to their lives and culture. Students will create a mock charity to serve a real humanitarian need in the world. The textbook readings will be complemented by classroom lectures and discussions that help explain and apply religious truths beyond their religious contexts. Exams will be multiple choice, matching, and short answer. Study guides for note-taking purposes and for exam review are provided.

### Course Objectives

#### GEO / STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Our GEO Outcome is GEO 7 (Core Competence): Understand and respect the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures. We will further describe this course in the following student learning outcomes.

Student Learning Outcome 1: At the end of instruction, the successful student should be able to define important terminology and discuss factual information regarding concepts, beliefs, values and principles related to each religion.

Assessment of Outcome: Exams, Weekly Homework, Reading Analyses, and your own personal reflections (Truth Essays) will be utilized to assess your knowledge of and interaction with another culture's beliefs, vocabulary, values, and guiding principles. As charity is a value and guiding principle of our religions, students will research a local charity and also create a mock charity intended to serve a global community.

Student Learning Outcome 2: At the end of instruction, the successful student should be able to describe the important historical and cultural factors that helped shape the teachings and practices in each religion.

Assessment of Outcome: Exams and Weekly Homework Assignments will be the primary method for assessing a student's knowledge and retention of important historical and cultural factors that shaped the teachings and practices of each religion. A Truth Essay will offer the student an opportunity to apply truths from our religions to his or her everyday life.

Student Learning Outcome 3: At the end of instruction, the successful student should be able to explain the nature of and relationship between the Divine, the universe, and humankind for each religion.

Assessment of Outcome: Exams, Weekly Homework and Sacred Scripture Reading Analyses will assess the student's knowledge and retention of each religion's worldview.

Student Learning Outcome 4: At the end of instruction, the successful student will have read portions of the sacred scriptures associated with each religion and be able to identify specific styles, genres, themes, authors, and purposes for these scriptures with additional application to contemporary issues and topics.

Assessment of Outcome: A sacred scripture reading analysis will be the primary method of assessing this outcome.

Student Learning Outcome 5: At the end of instruction, the successful student will consider the truths and principles of each religion and discover ways to apply these truths and principles to his or her own life, identifying and analyzing their own worldview components.

Assessment of Outcome: Weekly Homework, Reading Analyses, Truth Essays (personal reflections), and a student's own worldview essay will assess truths that he or she considers important to their way of seeing, interpreting, and living in their world.

On the course learning platform, a student will find a detailed description of the above referenced assignments and templates to assist in completing the assignments successfully. A brief summary of the assignments is provided below. We will discuss course assignments in class and answer any questions.

## **Textbook**

Experiencing The World's Religions, Michael Molloy (7th Edition). There will be additional readings and videos assigned with links available on our course platform.

A digital version of the textbook is available at [www.redshelf.com](http://www.redshelf.com):

<https://www.redshelf.com/item/10911/smartbook-online-access-for-experiencing-the-worlds-religions-9781259324475-1259324478>

## Grading Procedure

Two Exams	140 points
Reading Analyses	70 points
Three Truth Essays	45 points
Charity Project	20 points
Homework	50 points
Participation / Attendance	30 points
Course Assessment	45 points
Total:	400 points

### TWO EXAMS AND A COURSE ASSESSMENT

The three exams will occur after units of study. The Program Assessment will occur at the end of the course and cover basic factors associated with our Student Learning Outcomes. The exams are mostly matching and multiple choice with a few short answer questions.

### FOUR READING ANALYSES

For four of the religions we study, I will provide readings from sacred scriptures. You will analyze the scriptures by way of study questions that I provide. The questions will necessitate answers written (typed) in paragraphs with appropriate grammar and substantive content. This is not an assignment that asks you to summarize the readings but to identify truths, principles, values, ethics, morals and ideals in the passage.

### THREE TRUTH ESSAYS

This essay assignment asks you to identify a truth that you appreciate from our course studies. You will analyze this truth and apply it to your life in three ways. In general, you will follow this format: "I am not (name of religion), but this is a truth I found in this religion and I can apply it to my life in the following three ways." One essay will be written for our Eastern Religions and another essay written for the covenant-based religions. The topic for the third essay will relate to one of the themes that all our religions have promoted.

### CHARITY REPORT

Using a research template I provide, you will research the needs associated with a group of people in a geographical locale outside the United States. Given your research, you will then create a mock or fictitious charity to meet the identified needs of the people group. Again, I provide a template to help you complete this assignment.

### HOMEWORK

On five Wednesdays, homework will be assigned that is worth 10 points. These homework assignments will help guide the student through the assigned readings, aiding in comprehension of the textbook and providing a foundation for engaging themes and concepts in the upcoming class.

### PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Class participation is an important part of the learning process for this course. Students will be involved in class discussions and group projects during class time. Outside readings and assignments are viewed as preparation for in-class activities. Some students are not as talkative as others. If this is true of you, I will observe your "active engagement" in the course so as not to be penalized for being somewhat (but not completely) quiet. Attendance will count as 66% of the points associated with this grade item; participation will count as 33% of the points associated with this grade item.

## Grading Scale

GPA	GRADE RANGE
4.0	94-100%
3.5	89-93%
3.0	84-88%
2.5	78-83%
2.0	72-77%
1.5	66-71%
1.0	60-65%
0.5	55-59%
0.0	0-54%

## Late Assignments and Missed Exams

Assignments will be accepted up to 48 hours after a due date by way of a dropbox. A missed exam will need to be completed at the Testing Center within five days of the exam date. No assignments or exams will be accepted after the last day of the course.

## Dismissal and/or Failure

In our course, we will be discussing perspectives and points of view that are, at times, different from our own. Disparaging comments about people or cultures will not be tolerated. Profanity will not be tolerated. A student may be removed from the classroom if their participation is viewed as hurtful and harmful to others. In addition, excessive noise (talking out of turn, food items) that are viewed as disruptive to the learning environment may invite warnings and a dismissal from the classroom or course. As outlined below, plagiarism and cheating are cause for dismissal from this course.

## Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

**Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:**

Submitting other's work as your own.

Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation.

Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism).

**Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:**

Plagiarizing in any form.

Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization.

Copying and Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others.

Altering graded work.

Falsifying data.

Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical.

Allowing your work to be submitted by others

### Assistance

I encourage students to contact me for assistance and support. Also, students should familiarize themselves with support services available at Jackson College and the Center for Student Success. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact me and the Center for Student Success as soon as possible to better ensure that helpful accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. I am a former rehabilitation specialist and am open to helping students succeed in a variety of ways.

Per Jackson College and the Center for Student Success: While we will make every effort to coordinate accommodations in a timely manner, failure to self-identify prior to the start of the semester may delay notification to instructors and timeliness of acquiring accommodations. Accommodations do not automatically carry over to the next semester. Please consult the following website for details about the various services available at Jackson College for students seeking assistance and accommodations.

<https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities/>

### Calendar

The following represents a tentative schedule. The reading assignments reflect what is due for the next class. If we deviate from the course schedule, students will be made aware of the changes in the class and by email.

WEEK #	Date	TOPIC	HOMEWORK
One	March 18	Introduction	Read pages 92 to 102 (7th ed)
One	March 20	Hinduism Part One	Read pages 73 to 85 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed) Hindu Analysis Assigned Homework Assigned

Two	March 25	Hinduism Part Two	Read pages 85 to 89 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed)
Two	March 27	Hinduism Part Three	<b>Hinduism Analysis Due</b> Read pages 119 to 126 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed) Homework Assigned
Three	April 1	Buddhism Part One	Read Pages 126 to 134 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed)
Three	April 3	Buddhism Part Two	<b>First Truth Essay Due</b> Read pages 271 to 282 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed) Homework Assigned Prepare for Exam
Four	April 8	Exam Abraham	Read 282 to 285; 289 to 294 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed)
Four	April 10	Judaism	<b>Buddhism Analysis Due</b> Read pages 319 to 329 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed) Homework Assigned
Five	April 15	Christianity Part One	Read pages 329 to 337 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed)
Five	April 17	Christianity Part Two	Read 355 to 357; 389 to 409 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed) Homework Assigned
Six	April 22	Christianity Part Three Islam Part One	<b>Christianity Analysis Due</b> Read pages 409 to 416 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed)
Six	April 24	Islam Part Two	<b>Second Truth Essay Due</b>
Seven	April 29	Islam Part Three End Times and Spirituality	<b>Islam Analysis Due</b> <b>Charity Report Due</b>
Seven	May 1	Exam and Course Assessment	<b>Third Truth Essay Due</b>


### **Attendance Reporting Policy**

In compliance with Federal Title IV funding requirements, as well as college initiatives, reporting of student participation in classes will occur at three designated times each semester. Instructors will assign one of three non-transcripted letter symbols to each student during each reporting period (see below). Students identified as no longer participating will be dropped or administratively withdrawn from the class, and students identified as needing academic assistance will be contacted.

### **Participation/Progress Symbols**

H – The student is not doing acceptable work and needs **H**elp to be successful.

Q – The student has not participated and the instructor believes they have unofficially withdrawn (**Q**uit). These students will be dropped/withdrawn from the class.

V – The instructor **V**erifies that the student is participating and doing acceptable work.

Initial reporting dates: March 30, 2019 and April 13, 2019

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit is not provided in this course by way of extra assignments. There will be extra questions on each exam. These extra questions will allow students to earn extra credit points.