

World Religions

"Say nothing of my religion. It is known to God and myself alone. Its evidence before the world is to be sought in my life: if it has been honest and dutiful to society the religion which has regulated it cannot be a bad one."

~ Thomas Jefferson

Introduction

Welcome to World Religions! Because this is an academic course on religion, you should expect to study a number of religions from a critical/investigative perspective. We will study all religions, including one you may believe in, from the perspective of a curious outsider. You should not expect to come to believe the traditions we'll study, but you should expect to understand why someone else might.

Purpose

"Religion has always been with us. Throughout history, it has expressed the deepest questions human beings can ask, and it has taken a central place in the lives of virtually all civilizations and cultures. As we think all the way back to the dawn of human consciousness, we find religion everywhere we turn."

Overall, religion is powerful and persistent, and it shows no signs of disappearing. It provokes heartfelt commitment, eloquent expression, forthright action, and intense debate. For both practitioners and observers - for everyone who wants to be informed about the world around them - religion is an intensely curious phenomenon that calls out for better understanding." ~ American Academy of Religion

Course Outline

First 9 Weeks (ish)

1. Nature of Religion
2. Origins of Religion/Primal Religions
3. Hinduism
4. Buddhism
5. Judaism
6. Christianity
7. Islam

Second 9 Weeks: Student Choice

Individual students will propose religions* from around the world and across time that interest them. Students will then get to vote on their 3 preferred proposals and the 4-5 that receive the highest number of votes will be covered*.

* As the teacher, I have veto power to any proposals that are problematic for the course

Grading Policy:

Classwork/ Daily Grades: 40%

- any assignment where the majority of the work is done by students individually, in class

Participation & Homework: 20%

- HW: any assignment where the majority of the work is done by students individually, at home
- Participation: any assignment where the majority of the work is done as a class or in groups (ex: warm-up, exit slips, class polls, student break-out groups, debate, etc.)

Projects: 15%

Unit/Cycle Tests: 25%

- All quizzes and exams will have an opportunity for review prior to testing, review sheets and/or review activities will always be given at least one day in advance
- $(1^{\text{st}} \text{ Cycle} * 40\%) + (2^{\text{nd}} \text{ Cycle} * 40\%) + (\text{Final Exam} * 20\%) = \text{Semester Average}$

Make-up Work: In the case of excused absences, students will have a number of days equal to that of their absence to turn in make-up work without penalty. After the allotted make-up period has passed late penalties will be put in place.

Late Work: Work is due in a student's assigned class period unless otherwise indicated. Turning in work after that assigned period will be considered late. The first day an assignment is late it can be submitted for a 70, after that the highest possible score is 50 for complete/correct work. Students have 7 school days to submit late work unless otherwise discussed with the teacher.

Re-Take Policy:

- Not to exceed 2 retakes per grading cycle, Final Exams are not eligible
- Maximum retake score is 70, (score of 70 to 100 = 70)
- The highest grade between the original and the retake is counted.
- The student, not the parent, must request the retake in writing using forms located in class.
- Student must request the retake within 24 hours and complete the retake within one week of grade posted
- Retakes are for in-class assessments, such as quizzes and/or tests only
- Student must fill out a retake form and complete the required remediation as listed on the form.
- If there are multiple retakes in the same day, it is the student's responsibility to reschedule with the teacher in advance. No shows counts as a taken retake

Parent Responsibilities:

- **Create and monitor a Gradespeed account for your child**, you can set alerts for low grades, missing work and absences that will send text messages to your phone if consistent internet connectivity is an issue
- **Together, you and I can create the best learning opportunities for your child!**

Student Name Printed Clearly: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

- Students will be given one copy to be signed and returned, a PDF will be available on the school website and HUB