

## **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*

### **Our Classroom is an Open-minded & Safe Space**

*"Meaningful and constructive dialogue is encouraged in this class and requires mutual respect, a willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view. Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained at all times in this class. One's choice of words and use of language is a critical component of respectful discourse as we work together to achieve the full benefits of creating a classroom in which all people can feel comfortable expressing themselves."~ CSUN, Office of Equity and Diversity*

### **Course Outline**

#### **First ½ of the Semester**

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

#### **Second ½ of the Semester: 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

## **Abbreviated Grading Policy for Virtual Instruction:**

Classwork/ Daily Grades: 60%

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

Major Assessments: 40%

**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 by the date & time indicated on the HUB assignment. After that time, students have 2 school days to turn in the assignment for a maximum of 70, after which time work will no longer be accepted.

### **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 the HUB.
- Student must request the retake within 24 hours of grade being 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 PowerSchool 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!**

a PDF of this syllabus will be available on the school website and HUB