

San José State University
Humanities Department
RELS – 70 World Religions, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Arthur Zárate
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Office Hours:	By Appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1373362
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	C2 (Letters, Humanities and Arts)

Course Format

Canvas

This course requires you to access the Canvas Learning Management System. Course materials, including the syllabus, assignments, readings, and more, will be posted on Canvas. Assignments will be handed in via Canvas.

Course Description

This is a survey of major world religions, east and west, past and present. We will consider the structure and patterns of faith manifest in sacred texts, institutions, rituals, central figures, and movements.

We will consider include indigenous religious traditions, Jewish traditions, Christian traditions, Islamic traditions, Hindu traditions, Buddhist traditions, Sikh traditions, Chinese traditions, and New Religions and Movements. Special attention will be afforded to contemporary manifestations of these traditions and their practice in the U.S.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize how significant human accomplishments illuminate enduring concerns. You will be assessed on this in your exams, response paragraphs, and term project paper.
2. Respond to such accomplishments by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses. You will be assessed on this in your term project paper and in your personal response paragraphs.
3. Write clearly and effectively. You will be assessed on the effectiveness of your writing in your exams, term project paper, and personal response paragraphs.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and recognize the key terms, basic ideas, and practices of the world's religions. You will be assessed on this in your exams, response paragraphs, and term paper.
2. Identify, critically engage, and utilize the key terms and concepts for the study of religion. You will be assessed on this in your exams, response paragraphs, and term paper.
3. Identify and understand similarities, commonalities, and differences across the world's religions. You will be assessed on this in your exams, response paragraphs, and term paper.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Roy C. Amore, et al., *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*, 4th Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. ISBN-10: 0190919027, ISBN-13: 978-0190919023. Available for purchase at the university bookstore.

Note: The publisher provides online student resources including study guides and practice quizzes. You can access these features at https://oup-arc.com/access/amore4e-student-resources#tag_chapter-01

Other Readings and Media

Primary source readings and other media will be made available to the students by the instructor on Canvas.

Technology Requirements

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See Learn Anywhere website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Quizzes. There will be quizzes to be completed on Canvas at the end of each week.

Exams. There are two take-home open-note exams, a midterm and a final. The exams will be of equal value and will follow each of half of the course. Both exams will be completed in a group with other students. Although completed in a group, each student will turn in their own individual unique exam.

Personal Response Paragraphs (PRPs). Each week students are required to participate in discussion by writing a PRP and then commenting on another student's PRP. There are sixteen PRPs to complete. Each will require (a) brief, well-written paragraph(s) in answer to (a) question(s) posted by the instructor or on whatever topic you like. I will provide a handout explaining them in further detail. The PRPs are posted on Canvas.

Term Project. The Term Project will be a comparison between two different religions of your choice (1,500 words). The project is further described in a separate handout.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination

The final exam is a take-home open note exam, which will be completed in a group. Although completed in a group, each student will turn in their own individual unique exam. The final will stress materials from the second half of the course.

Grading Information

Grades will be based on performance on each of the four items identified in the chart below. Make-up tests, late project submissions, and late assignments will be approved when you can provide documentation of illness or other circumstances beyond your control. Late assignments and project papers will lose an entire letter grade each day they are late unless the student can provide documentation justifying the tardiness. More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following two university policies:

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)
- University Grading System Policy F18-5 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>)

Determination of Grades

Quizzes	150 points
Personal Response Paragraphs	150 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
<u>Term Project</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total	600 points

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>576 to 600</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>558 to 570</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>540 to 552</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>516 to 534</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>498 to 510</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>480 to 492</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>456 to 474</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>438 to 450</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>420 to 432</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>396 to 414</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>378 to 390</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>360 to 372</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Classroom Protocol

This is an asynchronous online course, meaning that students are expected to complete all course content at their own pace. Lectures by the instructor will be available on Canvas together with other course materials.

Content is organized by modules. At the start of each week (Monday) the module for that week will be opened on Canvas so that students can complete it.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

RELS – 70/World Religions, Fall 2020, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
1	AUG 19	Introduction. And what are the humanities and why are you here? Complete Module 1 PRP 1 (due by Aug. 23 11:59 pm)
2	AUG 24	About Religion <i>A Concise Introduction to World Religions</i> 4th edition, (Hereafter, Amore), Chapter 1 Complete Module 2 PRP 2 and About Religion Quiz (due by Aug. 30 11:59 pm)
3	AUG 31	Indigenous Traditions Amore, Chapter 2 Complete Module 3 PRP 3 and Indigenous Religions Quiz (due by Sept. 6 11:59 pm)
4	SEPT 7	Jewish Traditions Amore, Chapter 4 Complete Module 4 PRP 4 and Jewish Traditions Quiz (due by Sept. 13 11:59 pm)

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
5	SEPT 14	Christian Traditions Amore, Chapter 5 Complete Module 5 PRP 5 and Christian Traditions Quiz (due by Sept. 20 11:59 pm)
6	SEPT 21	Muslim Traditions I Amore, Chapter 6, pages 244-261 Complete Module 6 PRP 6 and Muslim Traditions Quiz I (due by Sept. 27 11:59 pm)
7	SEPT 28	Muslim Traditions II Amore, Chapter 6, pages 261- 301 Complete Module 7 PRP 7 and Muslim Traditions Quiz II (due by Oct. 4 11:59 pm)
8	OCT 5	Muslim Traditions III Complete Module 8 PRP 8 and Muslim Traditions Quiz III (due by Oct. 11 11:59 pm)
9	OCT 12	* MIDTERM EXAM * Due by Oct. 18 11:59 pm
10	OCT 19	Hindu Traditions I Amore, Chapter 7, pages 302-333 Complete Module 9 PRP 9 and Hindu Traditions Quiz I (due by Oct. 25 11:59 pm)
11	OCT 26	Hindu Traditions II Amore, Chapter 7, pages 333-363

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
		Complete Module 10 PRP 10 and Hindu Traditions Quiz II (due by Nov. 1 11:59 pm)
12	NOV 2	Sikh Traditions Amore, Chapter 8 Complete Module 11 PRP 11 and Sikh Traditions Quiz (due by Nov 8 11:59 pm)
13	NOV 9	Buddhist Traditions I Amore, Chapter 10, pages 434 - 466 Complete Module 12 PRP 12 and Buddhist Traditions Quiz I (due by Nov. 15 11:59 pm)
14	NOV 16	Buddhist Traditions II Amore, Chapter 10, pages 466 - 477 Complete Module 13 PRP 13 and Buddhist Traditions Quiz II (due by Nov. 22 11:59 pm)
15	NOV 23	Chinese and Korean Traditions Amore, Chapter 11 Complete Module 14 PRP 14 and Chinese and Korean Traditions Quiz (due by Nov. 29 11:59 pm) * Term Paper Due Nov 29 by 11:59pm *
16	NOV 30	New Religions and Movements Amore, Chapter 13 Complete Module 15 PRP 15 and New Religions and Movements Quiz (due by Dec. 6 11:59 pm)

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
		FINAL EXAM Due Dec. 13 by 11:59pm