

**San José State University
Humanities Department
RELS 70 – WORLD RELIGIONS
Fall 2020 Semester**

Course and Contact Information

Professor:	Todd Perreira ทอดด์ เปอร์เรีรา
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Office Hours:	W 2:15–3:45 PM and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 10:30 – 11:45 AM
Classroom:	Virtual (Live Zoom Sessions)

Canvas – Learning Management System

Messages related to class activities and course assignments will be posted to Canvas.

Course Description

Catalog Description: Survey of major world religions, east and west, past and present. Structure and patterns of faith manifest in sacred texts, institutions, rituals, central figures, and movements.

GE Area C2 Learning Outcomes and Assessment Activities

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

1. Recognize how significant human accomplishments illuminate enduring concerns. (This will be assessed in your biweekly reflections and field paper.)
2. Respond to such accomplishments by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses. You will be assessed on this in your final paper (research-based) and in-class writing activities (personal responses).
3. Write clearly and effectively. You will be assessed on the effectiveness of your writing in your short essays (exams), final paper, and field journal writing.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs specific to this course)

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

1. Recognize and analyze religious traditions of the world in their similarities and differences throughout history and in their present manifestations. This will be assessed in your quizzes, exams, and bi-weekly reflections on religion in current affairs.
2. Engage in comparative analysis of different traditions from the perspective of religious pluralism and cultural diversity. This will be assessed in peer-to-peer share meetings, exams, and final term project.

Required Text/Readings

Amore, Roy C., Amir Hussain, and Willard G. Oxtoby, eds. 2020. *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*, 4th Edition. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings from scriptures of religious traditions will be posted on Canvas.

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

Supplemental readings will be distributed on Canvas as needed.

Course Requirements and Assignments

EXAMS. The midterm and final exams will be of equal value and will follow each half of the course. Essay questions often stress material presented during class meetings.

QUIZZES AND IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES. On occasion, you will be invited to participate in an in-class exercise. These are live, peer-collaborative activities to help improve your understanding and comprehension of that day's lecture and reading material. There are no make-ups for missed live in-class exercises. These are incorporated into your final grade as "**Class Participation.**"

SUMMATIVE MODULE ASSIGNMENTS. The course consists of seven units or modules and for each of these there will be opportunities for reflection. These will consist of either brief (1-paragraph) written reflections, an Adobe Spark Page, or a 2-min Canvas Studio video.

TERM PROJECT. The Term Project will be in two phases. Phase I shall consist of a brief analysis and comparison of two religious traditions in their similarities and differences historically. Phase II consists of (virtual) visits to religious groups representative of these same two traditions in their present manifestation and will result in field notes and a final analytical paper (1,250 words). The project is further described in a separate handout distributed later in the semester.

Grading Information

Grades will be based on performance on each of the five items identified in the chart below. *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) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- [University policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Determination of Grades

Class Participation (in-class activities)	(up to) 50 POINTS
Summative Module Assignments (Spark Page, Canvas Studio, reflection)	100 POINTS
Midterm Exam	100 POINTS
Final Exam	100 POINTS
Term Project (Phase I: Historical)	100 POINTS
Term Project (Phase II: Present)	100 POINTS
COURSE GRADE	(up to) 550 POINTS

Letter grades will be assigned in line with these percentages:

A 94-100, A- 90-93, B+ 87-89, B 84-86, B- 80-83, C+ 77-79, C 74-76, C- 70-73, D+ 67-69, D 64-66, D- 60-63, F 0-59

SCHEDULE

You are expected to complete each reading assignment *prior* to the stated date and participate in all online sessions. This schedule is subject to change at instructor's discretion. Note: Our textbook, *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*, will be abbreviated in the assignments below as *WR*.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	AUG 19	Introduction to the course and to the study of religions.
2	AUG 24-26	(Mon) Studying Religions. Read <i>WR</i> 3-24. (Wed) Indigenous Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> 27-42.
3	AUG 31 - SEPT 2	(Mon) Indigenous Traditions continued. Read <i>WR</i> , 43-70. Religions of Antiquity. Read <i>WR</i> 77-98
4	SEPT 7-9	NO CLASS MONDAY - Labor Day Religions of Antiquity continued. Read <i>WR</i> 98-122
5	SEPT 16-18	Jewish Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> , 127-148
6	SEPT 14-16	Jewish Traditions continued. Read, <i>WR</i> , 148-177
7	SEPT 21-23	Christian Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> , 183-214
8	SEPT 28-30	Christian Traditions continued. Read <i>WR</i> , 214-236
9	OCT 5-7	Muslim Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> , 245-266 Review for Midterm Exam (Wed)
10	OCT 12-14	(Mon) Muslim Traditions continued. Read <i>WR</i> , 266-297 (Wed) MIDTERM EXAM
11	OCT 19-21	Hindu Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> , 303-325
12	OCT 26-28	(Mon) Hindu Traditions continued. Read <i>WR</i> , 325-358 (Wed) Jaina Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> , 401-428 Discuss guidelines for Term Project.
13	NOV 2-4	(Wed) Sikh Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> , 365-396
14	NOV 9-11	Buddhist Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> , 435-451 NO CLASS WEDNESDAY – Veteran's Day
15	NOV 16-18	Buddhist Traditions continued. Read <i>WR</i> , 451-491

16	NOV 23-25	Chinese Traditions. Read <i>WR</i> , 497-514. NO CLASS WEDNESDAY – Students start Thanksgiving Break!
17	NOV 30 – DEC 2	Chinese Traditions continued. Read <i>WR</i> , 514-543
18	DEC 7	New Religions and Movements. Read <i>WR</i> , 593-622 Final Class Meeting: Review for final exam DUE: Term Project Materials
19	DEC 14	FINAL EXAMINATION 9:45 AM to 12:00 Noon (MONDAY)