

**Syllabus RELI 100 DL1– Distance Learning Course**  
**The Human Religious Experience**  
**Fall 2018**

**Meeting place:** Blackboard 9.1; 3 individual field trips to area sanctuaries

**Weekly schedule:** Each week runs from Monday-Sunday, beginning on Mon, August 27–Weds, December 19, 2018

**Instructor:** Prof. Susan E. Bond

**Email:** sbond@gmu.edu

**Office Hours:** by appointment (email)

Fulfills general education requirement in global understanding. 3 credits.

**Course Description**

According to a recent study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life (2012), approximately six of the seven billion people in the world identify themselves as members of a faith tradition. Religion is a powerful force in the world for good and for ill, and religious literacy is (or should be) a requirement for every citizen of the world. The course covers the beliefs, practices, festivals, and history of the major world religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Daoism and Confucianism.

Human persons answer the age-old question about the ultimate meaning of life in a variety of ways that academic religious study describes as (1) worshipping the powerful forces of nature (the most primitive form of religion), (2) seeking harmony (Daoism and Confucianism), (3) seeking liberation (Hinduism and Buddhism), and (4) seeking salvation with the expectation of encountering God both in history and at the end of history (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam).

Since the beginning of the twentieth century and with the pace increasing in the mid-twentieth century, world religious traditions have been impacted by modernity in a number of interesting ways: a rise in cults and new religious movements paralleled by an opposing pull towards fundamentalism and orthodoxy; an increasing interest in the West in Asian religious practices like yoga, meditation, and acupuncture; and the rise of women as religious authority.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course students will be able to

1. Categorize the major religious traditions by four conceptual approaches to ultimate meaning;

2. Interpret the symbolic language of the major religious traditions;
3. Compare and contrast the practical and active elements of religious ritual and worship that "tie and bind" individuals to community and divinity;
4. Describe and explain the originating history, beliefs, and festivals of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism and Confucianism;
5. Apply literal, moral, and allegorical interpretive approaches to reading sacred texts;
6. Explain the impact of modernity, for example, the rise of science, cults and orthodoxy, and women as authority on religious traditions;
7. Articulate a worldview;
8. Apply good academic research and writing skills to all levels of composition.

### **Global Understanding Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate understanding of global patterns and processes;
2. Demonstrate understanding of the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of a global society;
3. Explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field.

### **Course Logistics**

This course uses a distance learning format; the primary meeting space will be on Blackboard 9.1; and we will use other means of keeping in touch such as email. Three individual field trips to area sanctuaries are required. This is a rigorous, writing- and deadline-intensive course. In a typical two-week period we will cover one religious tradition and:

- you will read about 60–80 pages and take an open-book test
- accomplish online activities and write weekly essays following good academic form
- work on assignments to be submitted through Blackboard according to the assignment schedule
- visit a sanctuary each month and write a report

### **Time Commitment**

Though the delivery method is different, it should take you the same amount of time as a typical undergraduate course. Because this class is accelerated, you should **expect to spend an average of 8 to 10 hours on coursework each week** (this includes the time you would have spent in a classroom); some weeks it will be as low as 6 hours but a few weeks it will be as high as 12 to 14 hours. The sanctuary reports require about 8 hours each, these are due three times in the course.

I note the high-hour weeks on the “Week Menus.” It is critical to keep up with weekly requirements.

### **Two-Week Absence**

If you fall behind by two weeks for *any* reason, you will not be able to catch up and keep up. **I recommend taking a Selective Withdrawal for any two-week absence from the course.**

### **Core Course**

Please note that this is a **George Mason Core Course** and for most, this is the only religion course you will take in college. Thus you will find that this is **not an easy-A course**. It requires a significant commitment of time and effort. Students with heavy course schedules and other major commitments like full-time work and family responsibilities find that the course requires more time and effort than they can give.

I will provide a folder each week in our Blackboard course to specify required activities and assignments (available by clicking on "Course Contents" on the course menu in Blackboard).

### **Sanctuary Report Individual Field Trips**

**Please carefully consider your schedule** before committing to the course, it requires **three field trips to area sanctuaries**. There are on-campus options and I encourage you to reach out to other students to attend the sanctuaries together, but these are the most important reports you do in the course (10% each) and there are no alternative options. Check the schedule and plan ahead.

### **Blackboard**

We will use Blackboard 9.1 for the course. Additional guidance on individual assignments and discussion questions will be posted there. Use the Blackboard assignment drop box to submit your work for grading. Please visit our Blackboard site regularly.

Access Blackboard 9.1 by following these steps:

1. Go to <http://mymason.gmu.edu>.
2. Login using your NETID and password,
3. Click on the "Courses" tab.
4. Click on RELI 100 under the “Blackboard 9.1 Course” heading.

### **Instructor-Student Communication**

I will respond to your emails within 24 hours. If I will be away from email for more than one day, I will post an announcement in the Blackboard course folder.

Write **RELI100** in the subject line of your email. **Sign your emails. I will not respond to unsigned emails** or emails written in Internet-speak.

**Before sending an email**, please check the following (available on your Blackboard course menu) **unless the email is of a personal nature**:

- Syllabus
- Blackboard videos on how to use Blackboard features
- Blackboard Q&A, and
- Technology Requirements.

### **Mason Email**

- Mason requires that Mason email be used for all courses. I will be sending messages to your Mason email and you are responsible for making sure you have access to these messages.
- You may forward your Mason email to other accounts but always use your Mason email when communicating with me to allow verification of your identity.
- You are required to check your Mason email account regularly and to keep your mailbox maintained so that messages are not rejected for being over quota.
- When you email me, you can expect a response within 24 hours. If I am going to be away from email for more than two days, I will send an announcement to the class.
- When you email me, be sure to include **RELI 100** at the beginning of the subject heading to alert me that I have received a message from one of my online students.

### **Participation**

#### **Netiquette For Online Discussions [\[1\]](#)**

Our discussion should be collaborative, not combative; you are creating a learning environment, sharing information and learning from one another. Respectful communication is important to your success in this course and as a professional. Please re-read your responses carefully before you post them so others will not take them out of context or as personal attacks. Be positive to others and diplomatic with your words and I will try my best to do the same. Be careful when using

sarcasm and humor. Without face-to-face communications your joke may be viewed as criticism. Experience shows that even an innocent remark in the online environment can be easily misconstrued.

Posts that are disrespectful, abusive, written in slang, bullet points, or incomplete sentences will be **deleted and receive no credit**.

[1] Netiquette prepared by Charlene Douglas, Associate Professor, College of Health & Human Services, GMU. Adapted by Susan E. Bond, George Mason University (2014).

## Technology Requirements

### Hardware:

You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and to a fast and reliable broadband Internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to hear recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required to take a distance education course consider and allow for:

- the storage amount needed to install any additional software and
- space to store work that you will do for the course.

If you are considering the purchase of a new computer, please go to <http://compstore.gmu.edu/pdfs/TechGuide.pdf> to see recommendations.

### Software:

This course uses Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal. See [supported browsers and operating systems](#). Log in to [myMason](#) to access your registered courses. Some courses may use other learning management systems. Check the syllabus or contact the instructor for details. Online courses typically use [Acrobat Reader](#), [Flash](#), [Java](#) (Windows), and [Windows Media Player](#), [QuickTime](#) and/or [Real Media Player](#). Your computer should be capable of running current versions of those applications. Also, make sure your

computer is protected from viruses by downloading the latest version of Symantec Endpoint Protection/Anti-Virus software for free at <http://antivirus.gmu.edu>.

Students owning Macs or Linux should be aware that some courses may use software that only runs on Windows. You can set up a Mac computer with Boot Camp or virtualization software so Windows will also run on it. Watch [http://support.apple.com/kb/VI54?viewlocale=en\\_US](http://support.apple.com/kb/VI54?viewlocale=en_US) about using Windows on a Mac. Computers running Linux can also be configured with virtualization software or configured to dual boot with Windows.

Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office for class attendance, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.

**Hardware or software required for this course or program may be available for purchase at [Patriot Computers](#) (the University's computer store that offers educational discounts and special deals).**

## **Student Responsibilities**

### **MasonLive/Email**

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. For accessibility and privacy, the university, school, and program will send communications to students solely through their Mason email account—students should respond accordingly (See <https://thanatos.gmu.edu/masonlive/login>)

### **Patriot Pass**

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web, Virtual Computing Lab, and WEMS. (See <https://password.gmu.edu/index.jsp>)

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester (See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>)

### **Academic Integrity**

Students must be responsible for their own work, and students and faculty must take on the responsibility of dealing explicitly with violations. The tenet must be a foundation of our university culture. (See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/distance>)

### **Honor Code and Virtual Classroom Conduct:**

Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code (See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honorcode/>). We value critical thinking and therefore, it is imperative that students read the assigned books and articles prior to the class with a critical eye. Active thought, quality of inputs, and a conflict resolution attitude should be your guiding principles.

### **Work Ethic**

RELI 100 is designed as a collaborative learning experience. It is important that students participate in every class and that they contribute actively to groups and class discussions. Please participate enthusiastically in group activities while respecting the opinions and valuing the work of other group members. You will be disappointed in this class if you focus on individual effort alone.

However, any individual work should be strictly your own. Presenting another's work as your own (plagiarism) will result in a zero grade for the assignment. While it is a powerful tool, please use the Internet with caution. Reference your sources, resist the temptation to cut and paste material into your own work, and use independent validation of the information where appropriate. To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**

**If you are absent from the course for two weeks** (no posts in discussion boards, no tests or assignments completed), you must take a Selective Withdrawal from the course.

### **University Policies**

Students must follow the university policies. (See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>)

### **Responsible Use of Computing**

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. (See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing>)

### **University Calendar**

Details regarding the current Academic Calendar. (See <http://calendar.gmu.edu>)

### **Religious Holiday Calendar**

George Mason University encourages student to participate in their respective religious holiday celebrations. (See <http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/>)

### **University Catalog**

The current university catalog. (See <http://catalog.gmu.edu>)

## **Student Services**

### **Writing Center**

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. (See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>)

ESL Help: The program was designed specifically for students whose first language is not English who feel they might benefit from additional, targeted support over the course of an entire semester. (See [http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/?page\\_id=10](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/?page_id=10))

### **University Libraries**

University Libraries provides resources for distance students. (See <http://library.gmu.edu/distance>)

### **Counseling and Psychological Services**

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. (See <http://caps.gmu.edu>)

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**



The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the "Buckley Amendment," is a federal law that gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. (See <http://registrar.gmu.edu>)

## Course Overview and Policies

1. In addition to the required readings, activity assignments are due each week.
2. All work is posted to Blackboard; **no work is accepted via email.**
3. Include a word count in your posts.
4. Most initial posts are due Thursday @midnight; comments are due Sunday @midnight (11:59 pm); sanctuary reports are due Sunday @midnight; online quizzes are due Sunday @midnight.
5. It is important to complete all work on schedule, but if there are extenuating circumstances; such as sickness, family issues, or religious observances that conflict with our schedule, please let me know within 24 hours.
6. A doctor's note for illness or service leaflet for a death in the family is required for missed sanctuary reports and the final within 24 hours of the due date if not before.
7. **There are three individual field trips assigned by last name** (see Major Components below). If you are assigned a sanctuary that is of your own tradition, go to a branch outside your own practice. For example, if your last name is Smith, you will go to a church, Hindu temple, and Daoist site over the course of the semester; if you are a nondenominational Christian, for the Church report, the report must be on a Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox church. Similarly, Sunni Muslims go to a Shia mosque; Reform Jews to an Orthodox or Conservative synagogue/temple, and so on.
8. It is your responsibility to be sure you are using a stable Internet connection before the course begins (see "Best Practices for Online Tests" below).
9. If Blackboard shuts down while you are taking the test
  - **email [courses@gmu.edu](mailto:courses@gmu.edu)** (Blackboard help desk) **immediately;**
  - **cc the professor, ask the help desk to use "reply all" when answering your query;**
  - take a **screen shot of Blackboard** with a time stamp;
  - since "my computer crashed" cannot be documented or verified, I cannot accept this excuse for missing or not completing a test.
10. **DO NOT**
  - a. ask the professor to calculate a hypothetical grade. All the information necessary to calculate this on your own is available to you (weights, grading schemas, etc.);
  - b. send an unsigned email to the professor;
  - c. ask the internet for the "answer" to the weekly essays, the essay prompts go to the assigned material;

- d. ask to do extra credit at the end of the course to boost your grade for any reason. **Three lowest scores have already been dropped.** The best way to earn the grade that you want and need is to work hard during the course, not afterwards.

### Best Practices for Online Tests [2]

- **Use only supported browser versions** when taking on-line tests. Supported browsers are listed on GMU's Blackboard login page.
- Before starting an on-line test, **close all other software programs on your computer**, including the browser that you plan to use to take the test. Re-start your browser and log in first to Blackboard without logging into any other GMU sites. This will help identify your test session in the system logs if you encounter technical issues.
- **Disable all pop-up blockers.** The steps for this will vary among browsers. If you have questions, ask the Support Center to look at your computer and browsers.
- **Use a hardwired connection** rather than your wireless connection to the internet to take an online test. Make sure that when you connect your network cable to your computer you also disable the wireless receiver so that it does not override or interfere with the wired connection.
- If your computer is connected to the Internet through an **ISP cable modem that is shared among a number of users** (such as at an apartment complex), you will likely experience problems with on-line tests. Questions may be slow to display and your connection may be lost briefly, which will cut off your test session. You should try to find a computer for your on-line tests that is on a more stable connection.
- Make sure you **do not have more than one browser window opened to Blackboard**; this can cause problems submitting your exam.
- Make sure your **computer is up-to-date on Windows patches and that it is virus and spyware free.**
- **Blackboard Outages:** Please be mindful (and wary) of taking the exams at times that are susceptible to Blackboard outages. Scheduled outages are posted on the Blackboard login page. Note that maintenance can be performed on Blackboard at the following times without prior notice: Monday through Friday, 3:00 am - 7:00 am; Friday evening 10:00 pm through Saturday morning 7:00 am. Also note that Blackboard servers restart daily at 4 am. While sometimes this outage may only last a few minutes, IT recommends not taking online exams or quizzes around 4 am. (All times are Eastern.)
- IT also recommends **clearing the cache on your computer** before starting a test to mitigate potential problems.

[2] Clemson University Computer and Information Technology, [ithelp@clemsn.edu](mailto:ithelp@clemsn.edu). Adapted by Susan E. Bond, George Mason University (2014).

### **Improving Your Grade**

Opportunities to improve your grade are generously afforded in several ways:

- dropping the lowest score on quizzes
- dropping the lowest score in discussion boards
- dropping the lowest score on blog posts
- the easy syllabus quiz counts as 5 percent

### **Late Work**

All written reports, essays, discussion boards, and blog posts (usually due on Thursdays, one on Wednesday) are graded down **one letter grade for each day late**. Activities and quizzes are forfeited if not submitted by their Sunday due date.

### Required Textbook

John Esposito, et al., eds. *World Religions Today*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Available at the Barnes and Noble campus bookstore <http://gmu.bncollege.com>

### Major Components

#### Quizzes (5 %)

#### Sanctuary Reports (10 %)

##### A-L last name students

1. Synagogue
2. Mosque
3. Buddhist temple

##### M-Z last name students

1. Church
2. Hindu temple
3. Daoist/Confucian site

#### Blogs & Comments (2%)

1. Myth, Symbol, Modernity
2. Literal, Moral, Allegorical Video
3. Symbols and Rituals of Succoth
4. Christian Sacrament and Jewish Life-Passage Ritual
5. Sermon Analysis
6. Qur'an and Hajj
7. Dalai Lama and Lotus Sutra

#### Discussion Board Groups & Comments (2%)

1. Writing and Citing
2. The Global Religious Landscape
3. Jewish Identity
4. Constructing Knowledge about Sunni and Shia Islam
5. Cleansing Rituals
6. The Ramayana
7. Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path
8. Harmony and Liberation
9. Confucianism and Daoism



Activities/Assignments	Percent
Quizzes (7)	35 (5 each)
Syllabus quiz (1)	Drop lowest quiz
Sanctuary Report (3)	30 (10 each)
Participation:	28 (2 each)
Blogs & comments (7)	Drop lowest blog
Discussions & comments (9)	Drop lowest discussion
Final Essay	7
Total	100

#### **Grade Scale**

97-100	A+
94-96	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0-59	F

**Final Essay (7%)**  
**Course Schedule Fall 2018**

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Content (Readings/Video/Audio)</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Assessment/Assignments</b>
Week 1 Tues, Aug 27 –Sun, Sept 2  Learning Outcome: #6, #8	<b>Welcome and            Introduction to            the Course</b>	(1) Mini-Lecture: Welcome  (2) Mini-Lecture: How to Take This Course  (3) Reading: “The Global Religious Landscape,” pages 9–15(8 pages) <a href="http://www.pewforum.org/files/2014/01/global-religion-full.pdf">http://www.pewforum.org/files/2014/01/global-religion-full.pdf</a>	(1) Student Introductions Due Thurs, Aug 30  (2) Discussions: a. Writing and Citing b. The Global Religious Landscape  Due Thurs, Aug 30; comments due Sun, Sept 2	Syllabus quiz  Due Sun, Sept 2
Week 2 Mon, Sept 3– Sun, Sept 9  <b>Last day            add/drop:            Sept 5</b>  Learning Outcomes: #1,#2, #6, #8	<b>Religious            Language and            the Impact of            Modernity</b>	(1) Reading: <i>WRT</i> , 3–37; 585–617 (66 pages)  (2) Mini-Lecture: Symbol (7 mins)  (3) Mini-Lecture: Impact of Modernity (11 mins)	(1) Blog: Myth, Symbol, Modernity (a) religious symbols in ads; (b) 4 myths map (c) concept map premodern and postmodern Due Thurs, Sept 6; comments due Sun, Sept 9	Quiz, <i>WRT</i> chapter 1  Due Sun, Sept 9

<p>Week 3 Mon, Sept 10– Sun, Sept 16</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: #1, #4, #6, #8</p>	<p><b>Introduction to Judaism</b></p>	<p>(1) Reading: <i>WRT</i>, 77–145 (68 pages)</p> <p>(2) Reading: James Tabor, “To Be a Jew: Political and Religious Definitions in Israel Today”(2 pages)</p> <p> James Tabor To_Be_A_Jew tagged pdf.pdf</p> <p>Open this article by clicking on the object, click on “packager shell object” in the drop down box and choose “activate contents.”</p>	<p>(1) Discussion: Jewish Identity</p> <p>Due Thurs, Sept 13; comments Sun, Sept 16</p>	<p>Quiz, <i>WRT</i> chapter 3</p> <p>Due Sun, Sept 16</p>
<p>Week 4 Mon, Sept 17– Sun, Sept 23</p> <p>Learning Outcomes #2, #3, #5, #6, #8</p>	<p><b>Judaism: Scripture, Symbols and Rituals</b></p>	<p>(1) Mini-lecture: Hebrew Bible (5 mins)</p> <p>(2) Mini-Lecture: Reading Scripture Literally, Morally, and Allegorically (7 mins)</p> <p>Link to Bible (NRSV)</p> <p> Genesis 21 NRSV - The Birth of Isaac - The LORD dealt - Bible Gateway.pdf</p> <p>Open this article by clicking on the object, click on “packager shell object” in the drop down box and choose “activate contents.”</p> <p>(3) Video: <i>Ushpizin</i> (92 mins) Dar, G. and R. Bukai (Producers) &amp; G. Dar (Director). (2004). <i>Ushpizin</i> [Motion picture]. Jerusalem, Israel: Warner Brothers/Picture House. Available to students using Swank Digital Campus within Blackboard.</p>	<p>(1) Blog: Literal, Moral, Allegorical Video</p> <p>Due Thurs, Sept 20; comments due Sun, Sept 23</p> <p>(2) Blog: Symbols and Rituals of Succoth</p> <p>Due Sun, Sept 23 (no comments)</p>	<p>Synagogue report (A-L), submit on SafeAssign.</p> <p>Due Sun, Sept 23</p> <p>(Rosh Hashanah begins Mon eve, Sept 10)</p>

<p>Week 5 Mon, Sept 24– Sun, Sept 30</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: #1, #2, #3, #4, #8</p>	<p><b>Introduction to Christianity</b></p>	<p>(1) Reading: <i>WRT</i>, 147–217 (70 pages)</p> <p>(2) Video: <i>The Sacraments</i> (23 mins) <a href="http://mutex.gmu.edu/login?url=http://digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1844&amp;xtid=49823">http://mutex.gmu.edu/login?url=http://digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1844&amp;xtid=49823</a></p>	<p>Blog: Christian Sacrament and Jewish Life-Passage Ritual</p> <p>Due Thurs, Sept 27; comments due Sun, Sept 30</p>	<p>Quiz, <i>WRT</i> chapter 4</p> <p>Due Sun, Sept 30</p>
<p>Week 6 Mon, Oct 1– Sun, Oct 7</p> <p>Learning Outcome: #2, #3, #5, #6, #8</p>	<p><b>Christianity: Scripture</b></p>	<p>(1) Mini-Lecture: New Testament (5 mins)</p>	<p>(1) Blog: Sermon Analysis</p> <p>M-Z due Thurs, Oct 4;</p> <p>A-L critique due Sun, Oct 7 (no comments)</p>	<p>Church Reports (M-Z), submit on SafeAssign.</p> <p>Due Sun, Oct 7</p>
<p>Week 7 Mon, Oct 8– Sun, Oct 14</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: #1, #3, #4, #8</p>	<p><b>Introduction to Islam</b></p>	<p>(1) Readings: <i>WRT</i>, 219–303 (84 pages)</p> <p>(2) Videos: Shia Imam Mustafa Akhound (a) Islam (9 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465372">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465372</a> (b) Sunni and Shia (10 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465378">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465378</a> (c) Eid al Fitr and Muharam (10 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465481">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465481</a></p>	<p>Discussion (&amp; Blog): Constructing Knowledge about Sunni and Shia Islam</p> <p>due Thurs, Oct 11; comments due Sun, Oct 14</p>	<p>Quiz, <i>WRT</i> chapter 5</p> <p>Due Sun, Oct 14</p>

<p>Week 8 Mon, Oct 15– Sun, Oct 21</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: #2, #3, #5, #8</p>	<p><b>Islam: Scripture, Symbols and Rituals</b></p>	<p>(1) Reading: <i>Approaching the Qur'an</i>, pages 40–55 (Surah 82) (15 pages) <a href="http://mutex.gmu.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/georgemason/docDetail.action?docID=10463085">http://mutex.gmu.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/georgemason/docDetail.action?docID=10463085</a></p> <p>(2) Video: <i>Hajj: The Pilgrimage</i> (88 mins) <a href="http://mutex.gmu.edu/login?url=http://digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1844&amp;xtid=11140&amp;loid=48148">http://mutex.gmu.edu/login?url=http://digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1844&amp;xtid=11140&amp;loid=48148</a></p>	<p>Blog: Qur'an and Hajj</p> <p>Due Thurs, Oct 18; comments due Sun, Oct 21</p>	<p>Mosque Report (A-L), submit on SafeAssign</p> <p>Due Sun, Oct 21</p>
<p>Week 9 Mon, Oct 22– Sun, Oct 28</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: #1, #3, #4, #8</p>	<p><b>Introduction to Hinduism</b></p>	<p>(1) Reading: <i>WRT</i>, 307–395 (88 pages);</p> <p>(2) Video: <i>A Year in India</i> (15 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110507949">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110507949</a></p>	<p>Discussion: Cleansing Rituals</p> <p>Due Thurs, Oct 25; comments due Sun, Oct 28</p>	<p>Quiz, <i>WRT</i> chapter 6</p> <p>Due Sun, Oct 28</p>
<p>Week 10 Mon, Oct 29– Sun, Nov 4</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: #2, #3, #5, #8</p>	<p><b>Hinduism: Famous Epic</b></p>	<p>(1) Mini Lecture: <i>The Ramayana</i> (9 mins)</p> <p>(2) Video: <i>Sita Sings the Blues</i> (82 mins) <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8sUYHP-XmE">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8sUYHP-XmE</a></p>	<p>Discussion: Ramayana</p> <p>Due Thurs, Nov 1; comments due Sun, Nov 4</p>	<p>Hindu Temple Report (M-Z), submit on SafeAssign</p> <p>Due Sun, Nov 4</p>



<p>Week 11 Mon, Nov 5– Sun, Nov 11 Learning Outcomes: #1, #4, #6, #8</p>	<p><b>Introduction to Buddhism</b></p>	<p>(1) Reading: <i>WRT</i>, 399–485 (86 pages) (2) Video Interview: Buddhist Nun, Venerable Losang Tendrol: The Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path (17 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465597">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465597</a></p>	<p>Discussion: Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path  Due Thurs, Nov 8; comments due Sun, Nov 11</p>	<p>Quiz, <i>WRT</i> chapter 7  Due Sun, Nov 11</p>
<p>Week 12 Mon, Nov 12– Sun, Nov 18  Learning Outcomes: #2, #3, #5, #6, #8</p>	<p><b>Buddhism: Scripture and the Dalai Lama</b></p>	<p>(1) Reading: Gene Reeves. <i>Lotus Sutra: A Contemporary Translation of a Buddhist Classic</i>, pages 68–73 (5 pages) <a href="http://site.ebrary.com/lib/georgemason/detail.action?docID=10408018">http://site.ebrary.com/lib/georgemason/detail.action?docID=10408018</a>  (2) Video: <i>10 Questions for the Dalai Lama</i> (87 mins) <a href="http://mutex.gmu.edu/login?url=http://digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1844&amp;xtid=44799">http://mutex.gmu.edu/login?url=http://digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1844&amp;xtid=44799</a></p>	<p>Blog: Dalai Lama and Lotus Sutra Due Thurs, Nov 15; comments due Sun, Nov 18</p>	<p>Buddhist Temple Report (A-L), submit on SafeAssign  Due Sun, Nov 18</p>
<p>Week 13 Mon, Nov 19– Sun, Nov 25</p>	<p><b>Thanksgiving Break</b></p>			
<p>Week 14 Mon, Nov 26– Sun, Dec 2 Learning Outcomes: #1, #4, #8</p>	<p><b>Introduction to Daoism and Confucianism</b></p>	<p>(1) Mini-Lecture: Harmony (11 mins) (2) Reading: <i>WRT</i>, 487–575 (88 pages)</p>	<p>Discussion: Harmony and Liberation Due Thurs, Nov 29; comments due Sun, Dec 2</p>	<p>Quiz, <i>WRT</i>, chapter 8  Due Sun, Dec 2</p>

<p>Week 15 Mon, Dec 3– Sun, Dec 9</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: #1, #2, #3, #6, #8</p>	<p><b>East Asian Traditions: Myth, Symbols and Rituals</b></p>	<p>Video Interviews: Confucian Institute Director, Dr. Lihong Wang</p> <p>(1) Myths of Harmony (2 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465477">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465477</a></p> <p>(2) Confucianism (2 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465476">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465476</a></p> <p>(3) Daoism (5 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465606">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465606</a></p> <p>(4) Teachers' Day (3 mins) <a href="http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465602">http://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465602</a></p>	<p>Discussion: Confucianism and Daoism</p> <p>Due Thurs, Dec 6; comments due Sun, Dec 9</p>	<p>Daoist or Confucian site report (M-Z), submit on SafeAssign.</p> <p>Due Sun, Dec 9</p>
<p>Thurs, Dec 13</p> <p>Learning Outcome #7, #8</p>	<p><b>Final</b></p>			<p>(1) Final essay. 1200 word minimum. Submit via SafeAssign.</p> <p>Due Thurs, Dec 13</p>