

The Human Religious Experience [12588]  
RELIGION 100-005  
Spring 2008  
Science and Technology II - 7  
Tuesday, Thursday 9:00-10:15 AM

Dr. Michael Catlett

Office 703-356-8088 [from 9-5, Monday-Thursday, and connected to voice mail at all other times]

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University Office Hours: by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will examine and discuss various religious traditions and seek to understand a wide variety of religious expressions and experiences. It is not our goal to evaluate these faiths and experiences. This course is intended to expand one's knowledge regarding the religions of the world, not to judge those religions or one's personal religious experiences. It is a basic premise of this course that religions are concerned with the intersection of holiness and humanity. Recurring patterns, concerns and issues will be noted and discussed. It is my hope that when you complete this course you will be able to discern some of the holy threads that connect the various fabrics of religious experience.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Living Religions. [6<sup>th</sup> Edition] Mary Pat Fisher, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 2005. ISBN 0-13-193315-9.

An Anthology of Living Religions. Mary Pat Fisher and Lee W. Bailey, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 2000. ISBN 0-13-015657-4.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read the texts. A tentative schedule of readings is found at the end of the syllabus.
2. Come to class. Your discussion and involvement is vital to the learning process.
3. Take the exams when they are scheduled. Should you need to reschedule an exam it is best to make the request prior to the scheduled exam rather than after it.
4. You will submit a reflection paper [no more than one page] regarding the prior week's class discussions, your readings, or your own religious experiences. Your reflection paper will be turned in each Thursday, beginning January 24. A reflection paper may **not** be turned in via email or received later than the end of the class period for which it was assigned.

## GRADING POLICY

- Examinations will incorporate readings and lectures. [The lecture materials will not be identical to the readings. Otherwise, why would I bother to lecture, and why would you bother to come to class and read the materials!]
- Your reflection papers, attendance and class participation are worth 10% of your total grade.
- There will be two exams in addition to the final. Each exam is worth 25% of your total grade.
- The final exam is cumulative and worth 40% of your total grade.

## TESTING PROCEDURES

- You are allowed to take all tests in groups of no more than four people. The group's grade is the grade for each individual within that group.
- You are not required to take any test in a group.
- If you choose to participate with a group please note that the group is responsible for all decisions regarding the inclusion or exclusion of individuals.

## READING ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

You will need to read approximately 30 pages of text before every class in order to keep up.

January 22	Introductory remarks
January 24-March 4	Introductory materials, Indigenous Sacred Ways, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism LR 1-175; ALR 1-141
EXAM	March 6
March 18-April 8	Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism LR 176-225; ALR 142-183
EXAM	April 10
April 15-May 1	Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and other religions [as time permits] LR 226-439; ALR 184-312
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>May 13, 7:30-10:15 AM</b>

**No class on January 31.**