INTRODUCTION TO THE LDS CHURCH

RELIGION 100

WINTER SEMESTER 2015-16

PROFESSORS
Elder Lawrence and Sister Elaine Flake
Student 3rd Ward Bishop Office Stake Center
Cell Phone: 801-380-6762; e-mail elaineflake1@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS
M/W 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
T/Th 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Or by appointment

Enrollment Limitations
This class is limited to students who are NOT members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and are in their first or second semester at BYUH. If you do not fit these criteria, but feel you should take this class, please visit with us.

Course Objectives
This class is designed to acquaint you with the history, culture, and teachings of the LDS Church in the hope that your increased understanding of the university’s sponsoring institution will:

1. Help you enjoy and profit from your experience at BYUH even more.
2. Equip you with information, insight, background, terminology, resources, etc. to help you do well in the other six religion classes you will take before you graduate from BYUH.

The objective of this course is not to argue, debate, or contend over differences between religious beliefs, nor to try to convert you to “Mormonism.” It should be noted and understood at the outset that most of the reading, videos, and lectures associated with this course will probably have a very pro-LDS tone to them. This course does not purport to be a dispassionate, objective look at Mormonism, but rather a reflection of what the Church, BYUH, and most Latter-day Saints you will associate with are all about.

Your religious conviction and traditions will be treated with dignity and respect, just as those of the LDS Church will undoubtedly be treated by you. A basic tenet of Mormonism states, “We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may” (Article of Faith 11).

Required Texts
Our Search for Happiness – M. Russell Ballard. Can be purchase at the bookstore on campus.
Truth Restored can be found online at: https://www.lds.org/manual/truth-restored?lang=eng

Handouts – provided throughout the semester

Resource Texts
The scriptures of the LDS Church:
Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine& Covenants, Pearl of Great Price

Attendance
Much of the value of this course will come from the classroom experience. Therefore, your attendance is imperative. Each absence will reduce your final point total by at least 10 points (5 points for attendance and 5 points or more for the daily reading quiz). We assume if you miss class you have a good reason, but you can only earn attendance AND quiz points for the classes you actually attend. Rather than trying to pass judgment on the dozens of situations students may encounter for missing class, we will just have NO excused absences EXCEPT extreme situations such as hospitalization or death in the family. If you are too ill to attend class and you call or e-mail me BEFORE class you can take the missed reading quiz but ONLY if you take it at or before the NEXT class you attend.
University Required Team Travel
Quiz and attendance points can be made up for university required team travel, but NOT for other team activity such as meeting with the coach, seeing the doctor, attending practice, etc. In order to be excused for team travel, please give the instructor the form from your coach before your absence or at the first class after your absence. Excusing absences is your responsibility, and must be done at the time and cannot be caught up later. If you have an excused absence for team travel you must call 801-380-6762 or e-mail us at elaineflake1@gmail.com as soon as you return from the trip and leave a message asking us to bring the quiz (or quizzes) you missed to the first class after your absence. Quizzes can only be made up immediately before or immediately after the first class after you return.

Papers
Three short (1-2 page) thought papers will be required during the semester. You will receive completion points if your paper is on time, well written, and shows evidence of careful thinking.

Reading Assignments
Because we will pace the class according to the interests and needs of the students, we won’t print a set schedule of reading assignments here. The assignments will be given in each class for the next class. If you are absent be sure to get the assignment from another student, online, or from or the instructors. This is your responsibility. A short reading quiz worth 5-8 points will be given at the first of class. If you are late to class you cannot take the quiz, but you will still get your points for attendance. Quizzes can be made up only for excused absences (university required team travel) or illness-related absences that are excused before the missed class, but the quiz must be taken the first day you return to class. (See attendance policy above.)

Honesty
As you know, when you come to BYUH, you promise to live by the Honor Code. While some of the details of this commitment may be new to you, such as dress and grooming standards and dietary restrictions, I am sure that the honesty principle is already part of your background and character. I believe that you will be true to your commitment including having academic integrity, specifically not giving or receiving any information that will give you or another student an advantage over others. Violations of the Honor Code are taken very seriously at this university. It’s part of what makes BYUH such a great place.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Points Each</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Approximately 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes (5 points or more each)</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>Approximately 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Thought Papers</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Approximately 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (comprehensive)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Approximately 200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL Approximately 745

The median grade in this class will be a B+. If your point total is above the class median you will receive an A or an A- or a B+. If your total is below the class median, you will be in the B or B- range. If you are significantly lower you may be in the C, D or E range. Because it messes up the system, we will have no extra credit assignments.

Exams
The midterm and final will be comprehensive and based on the study assignments and class lectures.
Midterm: Tuesday, December 15th in the testing center. No class this day.
Final: Tuesday, February 23

AN OBSERVATION ABOUT GRADING
Right now you have an A in this class. It is yours to keep or lose. From the experience of past semesters, here is how students who lose their A are most likely to do it:
1) **Being absent.** With each absence you lose 5 attendance points and 5 or more reading quiz points. This point loss can add up very fast. Possibly even more significant is the fact that you will miss the class discussion material that you will need to do well on the exams.

2) **Coming late or leaving early.** If you come late (after the quiz has been passed out) you can't take it and therefore lose 5 or more points. If you take the quiz and then leave class early, you lose your attendance points.

3) **Not studying the daily short reading assignments well** in preparation for the rather easy daily quizzes and thereby losing some of your 5 or more quiz points.

4) **Not being attentive and involved in class discussion** and lectures and therefore not being well prepared for the two exams.

The good news is that most students are wise enough to avoid these 4 pitfalls and keep their good grade. This is not a difficult course unless you don't take it seriously.

**We are really pleased to be teaching this class and very happy you have chosen to take it. We believe that together we can make it a worthwhile and fun experience.**

Elder and Sister Flake