RELIGION 351H
MORMONISM AND THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS (Honors)
Fall Semester 2015
Keith H. Lane—Instructor
Office: 182e STC
Office Phone: 675-3646
Home Phone: 293-2848 (Please no calls after 9:00 pm)
E-mail: lanek@byuh.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT


COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To create a greater knowledge and appreciation for the truths and traditions of the major world religions. This should allow students to discuss non-LDS religious ideas with accuracy and respect. It should be your aim to be able to explain another religious tradition sympathetically and intelligently so that an adherent of that faith would recognize that explanation as authentic and acceptable.

2. To observe patterns, parallels and differences that exist in the world religions in order to see how religious beliefs and practices give meaning to people’s lives.

3. To create a greater appreciation and testimony of the Restoration of the fullness of the Gospel and of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through a comparative (not competitive) study of religions and to help us love the Lord more fully as we see his hand in the lives of his children throughout the earth—to understand his role as “Lord of the Nations.”

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a demanding course and will require an average of TWO hours study (minimum) outside of class for each hour in class. That is to say, students should expect to spend at least four hours each day in preparation for this course (some may need more). The requirement of two to three hours per hour in class is a standard accepted at universities in general. I am convinced that you will learn more if you are challenged academically, and that the more you learn here about the religions of the world, the more you can bless the lives of others throughout the world. Speaking to BYU students, President Hinckley said: “I hope that your university experience has given you an enlarged sense of tolerance and respect for those not of your faith.” It is difficult to
tolerate and respect those you do not know and part of our task in this course is to help you get to know them as well as is reasonably possible in a semester’s time. You are welcome in this course, but please stay only if you are genuinely committed to do the work necessary and can do so willingly and gladly.

This is an upper-division course. Though it is not required, it is probably best that you have previously completed other courses in Religious Education.

1. Read and be responsible for the assigned content of Religions of the World: A Latter-day Saint, class handouts and the vocabulary list that appears in this syllabus.

2. Be responsible for the content of class lectures, films, and discussions.

3. Complete the assigned tests, quizzes, and assignments.

4. Keep the Honor Code in dress, general conduct, and academic honesty.

**GRADING**

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<td>Course Project</td>
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<td>Exams</td>
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The grades will be determined according to the traditional breakdown: A 94-100, A- 90-93, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 62-66, D- 60-62, F 59 or below

1. **Assignments, Quizzes and Attendance:** Quizzes related to the reading will be given throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor. There are particular assignments for virtually every religion studied. Late assignments will be marked down. Please email me the assignments at least 10 minutes before class starts on the due date. You should make sure your name is on the assignment (not just the email) and that the email subject line is clearly stated as to what assignment you are sending.

   Attendance and promptness will be measured regularly. More than three absences will lower your grade proportionally. Excessive absences may result in a failing grade.

2. **Course Reading/Study Project:** For this project, you will study one particular religion or issue you are interested in. This will include reading articles, scriptures, books, watching videos, etc. You will
keep a record of what you do as well as enter a short "what I did and learned this week." You will do a 3-4 page write up the end of the semester over your chosen subject. (More guidance will be found on Canvas.)

3. Exams: Exams will be a combination of Objective Questions and Essay.

Rules of the Classroom

1. Keep the Honor Code in dress, general conduct, and academic honesty. No hats in the building.

2. No Food or Drink in the Classroom.

3. Be attentive and courteous to other students. No talking during videos or other media presentations.

4. All electronic devices (computers, cell-phones, iPads, etc.) are to be turned off, stowed away, and not used during class time.

4. No homework for other courses. Your full attention is needed.
University Learning Outcomes:
http://accreditation.byuh.edu/sites/accreditation_byuh.edu/files/110-11-19-2013_0.pdf
1. Knowledge: Possessing Depth and Breadth of knowledge
2. Inquiry: Demonstrating information literacy and critical thinking to understand, use, and evaluate evidence and sources.
3. Analysis: Using critical thinking to analyze arguments, solve problems, and reason quantitatively.
4. Communication: Communicating effectively in both written and oral form, using integrity, good logic and appropriate evidence.
5. Integrity: Integrating spiritual and secular learning and behaves ethically.
6. Stewardship: Using knowledge, reasoning and research to take responsibility for and make wise decisions about the use of resources.
7. Service: Using knowledge, reasoning and research to solve problems and serve others.

DEPARTMENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Conceptual Learning Outcome
Students will learn the ancient and modern settings of the scriptures and they will be able to analyze and interpret LDS scripture, doctrine and history.

Application Learning Outcome
Students will be able to use the factual and conceptual understanding of LDS scripture, doctrine and history to conduct themselves in a manner that would enable them to enjoy and claim the blessings and happiness promised in those scriptures, and become a blessing to those with whom they come in contact throughout the world.

Spiritual Learning Outcome
Students will have developed a deeper testimony of LDS scripture, doctrine and history, and have a greater desire to seek the Holy Ghost as an aid in studying, pondering, and living the doctrine of the Church

Legal and University Matters

University Statement on Discrimination: The University is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including pregnancy), religion, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in admissions, employment, or in any of its educational programs or activities.

Title IX and Sexual Misconduct: Brigham Young University – Hawaii is committed to promoting and maintaining a safe and respectful environment for the campus community. Title IX prohibits all sexual misconduct against any participant in an educational program or activity.

Sexual Misconduct is defined as:

Sexual Harassment is unwelcomed speech or conduct of a sexual nature which includes unwelcomed sexual advances, request for sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct is unwelcomed if it not requested or invited.

Stalking is repeatedly following, monitoring, harassing, threatening or intimidating another by phone, mail, electronic communication or social media without legitimate purpose.

Domestic and Dating violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to control another partner. This includes behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerces threaten, blame, hurt, injury or wound.

Sexual violence/assault is actual or attempted sexual contact with another person without that persons consent.

Consent cannot be obtained when someone is a minor, under the influence of drugs or alcohol or has certain disability. In the absence of an outward demonstration, consent does not exist. If at any time it is reasonably apparent that either party is hesitant, confused, or uncertain, both parties should stop.

The following individual has been designated to handle reports of sexual misconduct and other
inquiries regarding BYU-Hawaii compliance with Title IX:
Debbie Hippolite-Wright PhD Title IX Coordinator
Vice President of Student Development & Life
Lorenzo Snow Administrative Building 55-220 Kulanui St. Laie, HI 96762 Office Phone: (808) 675-4819 E-Mail: titleix@byuh.edu
Sexual Harassment Hotline: (808) 780-8875

BYU-Hawaii's Office of Honor upholds a standard which states that parties can only engage in sexual activity freely within the legal bonds of marriage between a man and a woman. Consensual sexual activity outside the bonds of marriage is against the Honor Code and may result in probation, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

**Services for Students with Special Needs:** If you have a disability and need accommodations, you may wish to self-identify by contacting:
Services for Students with Special Needs McKay 181 Phone: (808)675-3518 or (808)-675-3999 Email address: aunal@byuh.edu
The Coordinator for Students with Special Needs is Leilani Auna.

Students with disabilities who are registered with the Special Needs Services should schedule an appointment with the instructor to discuss accommodations. If the student does not initiate this meeting, it is assumed no accommodations or modifications will be necessary to meet the requirements of this course. After registering with Services for Students with Special Needs, Letters of accommodation will be sent to instructors with the permission of the student.
COURSE OUTLINE AND EXAM SCHEDULE
Fall Semester 2015
Assignments should be read and completed before class on the day listed
ROW = Religions of the World: A Latter-day Saint Perspective

August 4-6 Intro and “The Gospel: A Global Faith” by Howard W. Hunter
Intro First Chapter ROW I (Also review the 10 questions listed on the syllabus)

August 11-13 Hinduism ROW II Karma assignment due (found on Canvas)

August 18-20 Jainism ROW III
Ahimsa Ahimsa Assignment

August 25-27 Buddhism ROW IV
Buddhism Readings on Canvas

Sept 1-3 Buddhism ROW IV -- Meditation assignment due

September 8 Sikhism ROW V Five K assignment
September 10 Connection Day

EXAM 1 September 9-12 in Testing Center

September 15 Confucianism/Taoism ROW VI-VII

September 17 ROW VI-VII Wu-wei assignment due
September 22 Shinto ROW VIII

EXAM 2 September 22-23

September 24 Judaism ROW X

September 29 Judaism

October 1 Christianity ROW XI Christianity assignment due
October 6 Christianity ROW XI
October 8 Christianity

October 13 Islam ROW XII

October 15 Islam ROW XII

Exam 3 October 15-17
AIDS FOR READING, EXAMS, AND VOCABULARY
Study Questions

These questions are designed to help you as you read each chapter. You should be able to recognize and compare the answers to the following series of questions for each religion studied. The first eight questions direct you to basic knowledge about each religion. The last two are designed to help you think about your own faith as you study other religions.

1. ORIGIN and HISTORY: Trace the basic history of the Religion. Did the religion develop as a reaction to or as an outgrowth of another religion? If so, what religion and why the reaction?

2. FOUNDER: Identify the founder of the religion (if one exists), sketch his history and dates.

3. DEITY: Is the religion monotheistic or polytheistic? Explain. Identify major deities and give their major characteristics. Are the deities active in the human realm or is the religion fundamentally “non-theistic”? Are there savior or helping beings, either present or future, in the religion?

4. WORLD-VIEW: What is the world-view or cosmology of the religion? What basic human problem is dealt with in the religion and by what method(s) does the believer gain benefits from the religion? What are some of the religion’s distinguishing beliefs?

5. GROUPS and DIVISIONS: Are there any major groups, divisions, or sects within the religion? If so, identify and define their major differences.

6. SACRED TEXTS: Are Scriptures used? Is so, what and how? Do they focus on deity, on ethics, on philosophical concepts, on a “myth”, or on social structure?

7. SACRED SPACE, TIME, RITUALS, and FESTIVALS: Identify the sacred spaces and times in the religion? What are the major rituals and/or public festivals and gatherings? What place do such rituals, festivals, or gatherings have in the religion?

8. ETHICS, MORALITY, and POLITICS: How does the religion affect political and social relationships between peoples and groups of people? What are the ethical, moral, or political implications of the religion? Are there distinguishing requirements or prohibitions?
9. In what ways is the religion similar and in what ways different than your own? What resonances and dissonances do you find? (Think of these questions in philosophical, doctrinal, ritual, social, cultural, structural, moral/ethical and personal terms.)

10. In what positive ways does the study of the particular religion transform, challenge, or deepen your understanding of your own religion and its place in your life?

TERMS TO BE DEFINED

Every discipline has its own unique vocabulary. The study of World Religions is no different. You will be expected at a minimum to be able to define and explain the following words. There may, however, be additional words used in lecture which you will be expected to know. I recommend that you make flash cards for help in learning these.

Hinduism

Aryans, Avatars, Bhagavad-Gita, Brahman-Atman, Dharma, Dravidians, Karma, Mahabharata, Maya, Moksha, Monism, Nirvana, Samsara, Shruti, Smriti, Upanishads, Vedas.
Trimurti: Brahma, Shiva, Vishnu.
Avatars: Krishna, Rama, Siddhartha Gautama, Kalki.
Caste System: Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Sudra (shudra), Untouchables/Outcastes/Harijan

Jainism

Ahimsa, Himsa, Jina, Jiva, Kevala-jñana, Karma-matter, Mahavira, Sadhu, Samsara, Tirthankara. Also know the monastic vows and be familiar with the vows of the laity.

Buddhism

Amitabah, Avolokitesvara, Buddha, Bodhisattva, Four Noble Truths and Eight-fold Path, Hinayana, Mahayana, Maitreya, Middle Path, Moksha, Samsara, Sangha, Siddhartha Gautama, Skandahs, Theravada, Tripitika, Vajrayana, Zen.

Sikhism

Adi Granth or Guru Granth, Amritser, Guru Arjun, Guru Gobind Singh, Gurdwara, Kaur, Khalsa, Mukti, Nanak, Seva, Sikh, Singh, True Name, Ik Oankar.
Five K's: Kachh, Kanga, Kara, Kesh, Kirpan.

Confucianism

Analects, Cheng Ming, Chun Tzu, Chung Yung, Hsaio, I Ching, Jen, Li, Mencius/Meng Tzu, T’ien.
Taoism

Shinto
Amaterasu, Bushido, Harai, Ise, Izanagi, Izanami, Jimmu, Kami, Kami-Dana, Kojiki, Matsuri, Nihon Shoki, Ninigi, Samurai, Susano, Torii.

Judaism

Christianity

Islam
Allah, Abu Bakr, Caliphs, Hadith, Imam, Islam, Jihad, Ka’aba, Khadijah, Mecca, Medina, Mosque, Muhammad, Muslim, Qur’an, Ramadan, Shari’a, Shi’ites, Sufis, Sunna, Sunnis, Tawheed, Umma. Five Pillars: Shahada (confession of faith), Salat (ritual prayer), Zakat (almsgiving), Sawm (fasting during Ramadan), Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).