

Meadville Lombard Theological School

GLOBAL RELIGIONS

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I.

<u>Course Prefix</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Term/Dates</u>
T/E	432	Global Religions	Online	Summer Semester: May 25, 2020 – July 17, 2020

II. Prerequisites:

None

III. Course Description (Catalog):

Using religious sources and authorities from Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, this course will explore how each religious traditions addresses ultimate theological and philosophical concerns. Specifically, the course will critically examine how each World Religion grapples with questions of metaphysics, ontology, transcendence and sacredness. We will weigh each tradition's axiologies and approaches to ethical issues (e.g. sexism, racism, heterosexism and eco-justice).

IV. Learning Objectives:

Learning Objectives - It is expected that as a result of this course, each student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate a considerable understanding of key religious concepts and terms from each religious tradition.
- B. Effectively analyze each religious tradition utilizing core philosophical categories (i.e. metaphysics, ontology, epistemology, axiology, and ethics).

¹ All times are Central

- C. Articulate the beginnings of a coherent, critical and cogent theology of World Religions
- D. Identify and apply moral principles from the World Religions to contemporary ethical issues.

V. Academic Integrity:

There are serious consequences to violations of the Seminary's academic integrity policy. These policies and procedures provide students a fair hearing if a complaint is made.

Details can be found in the Student Handbook.

VI. Methods of Instruction:

There will be asynchronous lectures, presentations, online discussions and assignments. There may be synchronous video conferencing sessions.

VII. Course Practices Required:

- 1. Complete the reading assignments and discussion forums**
- 2. Participate in Eight (8) video conferencing sessions**
- 3. Conduct one web search report for one religious community**
- 4. Complete two (2) 5-page reflection papers**
- 5. Complete one (1) final theological reflection paper**

VIII. Instructional Materials

	Author/ Editor(s)	Title	Publisher	ISBN	Publish Date
1.	Mary Fisher	Living Religions	Pearson	ISBN-13: 9780134168975 ISBN-10: 0134168976	2017

You are free to use previous editions of this text.

To access a reasonably priced electronic version of the textbook, go to <https://www.pearson.com/store/p/living-religions/P100002501951>

IX Course Outline					
Week(s)	Dates	Topics	Assignment	Due Date (Central Time)	
1	05/25-05/31	Introductions & Religious Responses	Reading Assignment: Religious Responses Chapter from Living Religions	05/27 (11:59 pm)	
			Introduction Discussion Forum Original Posts		
			Zoom Meeting #1		05/27 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Central)
			Introduction Discussion Forum - Respond to Two Classmates	05/31 (11:59 pm)	
2	06/01-06/07	Indigenous Sacred Ways	Watch Indigenous Sacred Ways Videos		
			Reading Assignment: Indigenous Sacred Ways Chapter from Living Religions		
			Indigenous Religions Discussion Questions Forum - Original Post		06/03 (11:59pm)
			Zoom Meeting #2		06/04 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Central)
			Indigenous Religions Discussion Forum - Respond to Two Classmates	06/07 (11:59 pm)	

3	06/08-06/14	Hinduism	Watch Hinduism Videos Hinduism Reading Assignment: Hinduism Chapter from Living Religions	
			Hinduism Discussion Questions Forum - Original Post	06/10 (11:59 pm)
			Zoom Meeting #3	06/11 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Central)
			Theological Reflection Paper #1	06/12 (11:59 pm)
			Hinduism Discussion Questions Forum - Respond to Two Classmates	06/14 (11:59 pm)
4	06/15-06/21	Buddhism	Watch Buddhism Videos Buddhism Reading Assignment: Buddhism Chapter from Living Religions	
			Buddhism Discussion Forum - Original Post	06/17 (11:59 pm)
			Zoom Meeting #4	06/18 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Central)
			Buddhism Discussion Questions Forum - Respond to Two Classmates	06/21 (11:59 pm)

5	06/22-06/28	Confucianism/Daoism	Watch Confucianism/Daoism Videos	
			Confucianism/ Daoism Reading Assignments: Confucianism/ Daoism Chapter from Living Religions	
			Confucianism/Daoism Discussion Questions Forum - Original Post	06/24 (11:59 pm)
			Zoom Meeting #5	06/25 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Central)
			Confucianism/Daoism Discussion Questions Forum - Respond to Two Classmates	06/28 (11:59 pm)
6	06/29- 07/05	Judaism	Watch Judaism and Christianity Videos	
			Judaism and Christianity Reading Assignments: Judaism Chapter and Christianity Chapter from <i>Living Religions</i>	
			Judaism and Christianity Discussion Questions Forum - Original Post	07/01 (11:59 pm)
			Zoom Meeting #6	07/02 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Central)
			Judaism and Christianity Discussion Questions Forum - Respond to Two Classmates	07/05 (11:59 pm)

			Web Search Report	07/05 (11:59 pm)
7	07/06- 07/12		Watch Islam Videos Islam Reading Assignments: Islam Chapter from <i>Living Religions</i>	
			Islam Discussion Questions Forum - Original Post	07/08 (7:00 pm-8:00 pm)
			Zoom Meeting #7	07/09 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Central)
			Theological Reflection Paper #2	07/10 (11:59 pm)
			Islam Discussion Questions Forum - Respond to Two Classmates	07/12 (11:59 pm Central)
8	07/13- 07/17	New Religious Movements (NRM) Course Review and Wrap-up	Watch NRM Videos NRM Reading Assignments: NRM Chapter from <i>Living Religions</i>	
			NRM Discussion Questions Forum – Original Post and Respond to Two Classmates	07/15 (11:59 pm)
			Zoom Meeting #8	07/16 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Central)

			Final Theological Reflection Paper	07/19 (11:59 pm)
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X. Methods of Evaluation			
These points will be earned in the following areas:			
Introduction Discussion Forum and Religion Discussion Forums –	<u>200 pts</u>	Eight (8) Discussion Forum Assignments at 25 pts each	20%
<u>Zoom Sessions</u>	<u>200 pts</u>	Mandatory Zoom sessions	20%
<u>Web Search Report</u>	<u>200 pts</u>	Web Search report at 200 pts	20%
Reflection Paper –	<u>200 pts</u>	Two (2) reflection papers at 100 pts each	20%
<u>Final Theological Reflection Paper</u>	<u>200 pts</u>	One (1) final theological reflection paper at 200 pts	20%
<u>Total</u>	<u>1000 pts</u>		100%

Letter Grades (%)	Grade Points
A ≥ 93	A= 4.04

A- = 90-92.99	A- = 3.67
B+ = 87-89.99	B+ = 3.33
B = 83-86.99	B = 3.0
B- = 80-82.99	B- = 2.67
C+ = 77-79.99	C+ = 2.33
C = 73-76.99	C = 2.0
C- = 70-72.99	C- = 1.67
D+ = 67-69.99	D+ = 1.33
D = 63-66.99	D = 1.0
D- = 60-62.99	D- = 0.67
F ≤ 59.99	F = Failing; Non-Credit

I Incompletes will only be granted under extreme circumstances and according to the Seminary's policies.

Zoom Sessions

There will be Zoom Sessions. Students are required to attend these synchronous video conferences.

Reading Assignments

Students are required to read the assigned chapters. It is suggested that students take notes of key concepts and terms from each chapter.

Discussion Forums

Students are to respond to the discussion questions assignments for each chapter. Every student will be asked to fully participate in the online discussion forums. Good participation is constituted by making substantive posts and responding to the comments and questions of classmates and the instructor. This means that students do not get credit for simply saying, "I agree with you," but he/she must tell why they agree. Post your responses to the instructor's questions and respond to at least two of your classmates' posts. The best way to do well in this

area is to simply take ownership of this online experience and engage your classmates until your heart and mind are content.

Theological Reflection Papers: Students are to submit two theological reflection papers, each being double-spaced with a 12pt font and (5) full pages in length. Students are to reflect theologically by sharing their thoughts about the religious material, making religious connections, and integrating a minimum of 5 (five) religious terms/ religious vocabulary from the learning material. Each term should be emboldened in the paper.

Final Theological Reflection Papers Each student is to reflect theologically on the religions covered in the class. The final reflection paper should be double-spaced with a 12pt font and 15-20 pages in length. Chicago/Turabian Style is preferred. This final reflection can include the material (in whole or part) from the previous reflection papers and online discussions.

Web Search Report: You will have 1 web search report to complete. Students are to choose a religion to research and will answer the questions (in a question-answer format) found in Appendix A. All components of the report must be typed, double-spaced with 12-pt font. Each report component must reflect college-level writing skills and should be a minimum of 5 pages. The chosen religion must be unfamiliar to the student.

Class Demeanor: While we invite each student to be engaging and challenging, it is nevertheless required that each student is respectful of one another. Posts and behaviors that impede the learning process will not be tolerated. If there are any issues in this area, the instructor will inform the responsible student(s) directly.

XI. Other Course Information:

If you have a documented learning, psychological, or physical disability you may be entitled to reasonable academic accommodations or services. Contact MLTS to request information about how to document and request accommodations. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements. MLTS will not waive any essential skill or requirement of a course or degree program.

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw themselves from the course. The instructor will not automatically withdraw students and all appropriate (i.e. earned grades) will be posted.

Again, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at his discretion. All changes will be discussed with the class. This will allow Mr. Muhammad to respond and make changes that will help students have an optimized learning experience.

APPENDIX A

World Religions

Web Search Report

Student Name: _____ **DATE:** _____

Student Religious Background or Affiliation: _____

Name of Researched Religion _____

- 1. How would you summarize this tradition's fundamental beliefs?**
- 2. What is most real or at the center of reality for this tradition? What makes something "real" in this tradition?**
- 3. What is their conceptualization of the divine/ultimate reality or highest state of consciousness? How does one learn about the divine or ultimate reality in this tradition?**
- 4. What is this tradition's view of humanity's nature and place in the cosmos? What is the place or role of women and children in this tradition?**
- 5. How do they see the world? (Is there a fundamental problem with the world? How will this problem be resolved?)**

- 6. What are their core ethical and moral values? What constitutes "the good" in this tradition? What constitutes "evil" in this tradition?**

- 7. How does this tradition tackle current ethical issues (e.g. same-sex marriages, homosexuality or taking human life)?**

- 8. What are some of their central practices and rituals and what mystical significance do they possess?**

- 9. Give an overall impression and view of this tradition. Discuss any new knowledge you may have acquired as a result of your research.**

(BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR RESPONSES SUBSANTIAL AND THOROUGH).