

World Religions - Summer 2023 Syllabus

Instructor: Spencer Ivy

Email: Spencer.Ivy@utah.edu

Office Hours: Via Zoom, by appointment

Office Location: Somewhere amidst the buzzing vastness of Amazon's server farm

Preferred Method of Contact: Email

No books are required to be purchased for this class, but I have placed links to the course texts should you like to own them. For all required readings, I will provide photocopies

Course texts that we will use but are not necessary to purchase (with hyperlinks – click the books' title - to Amazon):

1. [The Bhagavad Gita](#)
2. [The Dhammapada](#)
3. [The Bodhicaryavatara](#)
4. [The Bible](#)

COURSE READING & ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Part 1: The Human Spirit

Class 1: May 15th

Human Spirituality, What is Religion, Animism

Reading – Lakota Philosophy & the Vision Quest

Class 2: May 17th

Philosophy of Religion

GUEST: Alex Barrientos

Reading – Aquinas/Anselm/Paley + Guest Reading

Part 2: Religion in the East

Class 3: May 22nd

Daoism & Confucianism

Reading – Classical Chinese Philosophy Selections

Class 4: May 24th

Hinduism

GUEST: TBD

Reading – Bhagavad Gita

Class 5: May 31st

Buddhism

GUEST: TBD

Reading – Bodhicaryavatara 5 & 9

Part 3: The Abrahamic Tradition

Class 6: June 5th

Judaism

GUEST: Drew Ruble

Reading – Genesis, Exodus + Guest Reading

Class 7: June 7th

Islam

GUEST: TBD

Reading – In the Footsteps of the Prophet

Class 8: June 12th

Christianity

GUEST: Emma Heflin

Reading – Gospel of John + Guest Reading

Part 4: Spirituality Reimagined

Class 9: June 14th

Hermeticism

GUEST: Jordan Shonberg

Reading – Kybalion + Guest Reading

Class 10: June 21st

Art as Religion

Reading – Tarkovsky Ch2 + MOVIE

Movies: Andrei Rublev, Samsara, Winter Light

COURSE GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

To earn a 100% in the course, you must earn 100 total points. There are MANY ways to do this and you may 'choose your own grading adventure.' You may earn points by completing any of the tasks outlined below. Choose to complete assignments in whatever combination works best for you. All assignments will be graded, so you may not earn full points for just completion. **There are no due dates: you may complete any assignment at any time. HOWEVER, although you may submit them for full credit at any time during the semester, you may only earn up to 50 points from assignments scheduled before the midterm.**

Attendance: Up to ~50 points (Contingent on class cancellations/accommodations)

In Person Attendance: 5 points

- You may show up to class in person. If you do, you will earn the full 5 points.

Exams: Up to 100 points

How My Exams Work

- One week before the exam is due, you will receive a handout with 4 prompts. Each of the prompts is about a paragraph worth of questions on a particular topic. You will be required to answer 3 of the 4 prompts. All three prompts must be answered for the test to be graded. You may email me any questions you have about the exam – both logistics and content.

Midterm Exam: 50 points

Final Exam: 50 points

Discussion Board: Up to 100 points (10 points possible per board)

- *Ask a Question About the Reading: up to 3 points (Once per board)*
 - o Up to 3 points for a well formulated question that expresses a genuine problem with the reading. Good questions earning all five points will be able to stimulate a discussion (think in the vicinity of 100+ words)
 - o Up to 2 EXTRA points for a well formulated response to an answer from another student. The more robust and well-formulated your response, the more points you will earn.
- *Answer a Question: up to 5 points (Once per board)*
 - o For a full 5 points, answer your classmate's question like a professor would – with clarity and a full grasp of the reading & concepts in play. A good response will stimulate further conversation.

Reading Write-Up: Up to 100 points

- Write a 300-500 word summary of a week's reading and the lessons you've learned from it in the context of that week's lecture. Full points will be awarded to papers that are more than 300 words, though not exceeding 500, and that express a strong grasp of that week's course content.

Attend a Service: 15 points for attendance + variable points for creative project

- Get involved with religious practice by attending a service that you have never been to before. Complete a creative project inspired by your experience for variable bonus points.

Extra Credit: Up to 50 points (variable based on project) (You can do as many of these as are approved)

Pitch me a creative project. Some ideas from past classes can include producing philosophical works of art (songs/paintings/drawings), a ~10-15 page paper, or a performance piece. The world is your oyster here, get creative, pitch your idea, and I'll work with you to make it viable.

Points translate to grades as follows:

95 and above	= A
90-94	= A-
88-89	= B+
84-87	= B
80-83	= B-
78-79	= C+
74-77	= C
70-73	= C-
etc.	
Below 60	= E



UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. **The Americans with Disabilities Act.** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in

an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

2. **Addressing Sexual Misconduct.** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
3. **Drop/Withdrawal.** Last day to Add/Drop this class: May 21st. Last day to withdraw from this class: May 21st
4. **University Policies and Procedures:**
 400. Student Code: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>(Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)
 401. Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>(Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)
 402. **General Education Statement:** This course contributes to the University of Utah's Quantitative Reasoning requirement. For such courses, academic units must identify three essential learning outcomes (ELOs) that are relevant to university general education objectives. The ELOs for this course are: Inquiry and Analysis, Quantitative Literacy and Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning.
5. **Academic Misconduct:** "Academic Misconduct" includes, but is not limited to cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct." – **DON'T CHEAT. I TAKE CHEATING VERY SERIOUSLY.**

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance & Punctuality: According to University policy, “**Instructors must communicate any particular attendance requirements of the course to students in writing on or before the first class meeting**” (PPM, Policy 6-100III-O)]. Attendance is not mandatory, but may still earn you points. See the Grading Section to learn more.

All students who come to class are required to **socially distance and wear masks** for the duration of their time on campus. I will be policing this and helping ensure maximal safety for all of our colleagues and classmates.

Food & Drink: If you bring drinks to class, please tidy up and be respectful of your classmates. **Eating is not allowed in class.**

Electronic Devices in Class: You may use a laptop or tablet to take notes on the lecture in class. Otherwise, no electronic devices may be used in class. If you use your laptop or tablet to check Facebook etc., play games or engage in other non-class activities you will be asked to turn those applications off. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave class.

Canvas: All information about this class will be posted on Canvas. Please consult the class Canvas page regularly. Your Canvas activity for each class is logged automatically. The system detects every time you log on and records how long you visited for. Your participation through Canvas is measured this way.

Zoom: If you are using zoom, please be respectful. Mute your mic by default and use the “Raise Hand” feature before unmuting.

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements and in the Calendar.

Only seeing transfer of search strategy in expert domain

Further validates task because the intermediates are getting better

Training is more drawn out than in radiology, opportunity to catch people as they change their strategies more than radiology.

Here's research questions and answers, high level.