

# ANTH& 234: Religion and Culture - Online

Spring Quarter 2014 - Syllabus

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NOTE: JUST BECAUSE THIS SYLLABUS DOESN'T EXPLICITLY SAY YOU CAN'T DO SOMETHING... DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN.

## Course Outcomes

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Evaluate religion using academic methods, such as those used in anthropology, comparative religion, and/or religious studies.
- Describe and compare the doctrine, institutional structures, and ethical systems of a sample of the religions (e.g., indigenous religions, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and/or others) while emphasizing the development of World Religions and their subdivisions.
- Analyze the various media (e.g., texts, music, ritual, symbolism, architecture, etc.) through which religious knowledge and belief are expressed.
- Explore the interplay between religious belief systems and religious practice.

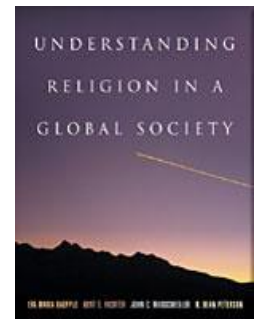
Evaluate relationships between religion and the social/cultural context, especially in relation to nationalism, politics, and globalization.

## WHAT TEXTBOOK & MATERIALS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE?

### 1. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Richter, Kent E., Eva Rapple, John C. Modschneider & R. Dean Peterson  
ISBN: 978-0-534-55995-3, 2005 *Understanding Religion in a Global Society*

### 2. RING-BINDER NOTEBOOK (if you choose to print course materials-See Eco-Conduct below)



You may find it difficult to continuously work online. You may find the course a great deal easier if you print the syllabus, calendar, each week's assignment page, and various other supporting documents. Place them in a 3-ring binder and buy a set of section dividers, with one divider for each section's assignments. Alternatively, you may want to download course materials to a thumb drive or other device for quick reference. Print only what you feel is necessary.

### 3. SOFTWARE

Word Processor: Microsoft Word is the only word processor supported at the college. You must use Microsoft Word to prepare any documents to be submitted. Documents submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

#### **4. WEB BROWSER**

You must use a Web browser supported by Canvas and it must be properly “tuned.” Information about supported browsers and how to tune them is posted on the Distance Education Website ([www.bellevuecollege.edu/distance/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/distance/)). Chrome is suggested to be most effective.

#### ***AFFIRMATION OF INCLUSION***

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. This applies to online courses as well. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. This classroom is a SafeSpace. Please check this website for further information: [Affirmation of Inclusion](#)

#### ***HOW CAN YOU BE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY AS A STUDENT?***

**Student Sustainability Guidelines:** Students are expected to make decisions that have the smallest environmental impact while maximizing student learning. These decisions include:

- Think before printing documents for this class: You may want to adjust printable margins, print double-sided & reuse paper for scrap paper. When possible you may want to print in grayscale or as a draft sample.
- Turn in papers electronically or when necessary turn in printed assignments double-sided, single-spaced and using narrow margins of at least .75 inches.
- Recycle all paper, bottles, and cans; and compost food and materials when possible.
- Adjust the power settings on your personal computer so the monitor and CPU will sleep after 20 minutes of inactivity and unplug all personal electronic devices when not in use.

#### ***WHAT IS THE RHYTHM OF THIS COURSE?***

##### ***READ THIS SECTION VERY CAREFULLY***

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE FLEXIBILITY IN YOUR SCHEDULE TO SYNC IT WITH THE RHYTHM OF THIS CLASS, YOU WILL HAVE A VERY DIFFICULT TIME SUCCEEDING IN THIS COURSE. REGARDLESS OF YOUR SCHEDULE,**

The on-line class has a very different rhythm from on-campus classes, and each on-line course is different from other on-line courses. On-line courses do not take off time for weekends, summer vacation, or holidays and often times it takes more time, dedication, and discipline to succeed in an online course. The major components of this course are described in detail below. It is your responsibility to be aware of all deadlines and course updates. Use your own version of the online course calendar to mark important deadlines for yourself.

#### ***WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY DOES THE COLLEGE HAVE?***

“The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible. If you are a person who requires assistance in case of emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter. The DRC office is temporarily located in D125 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc)

Please let me know by Canvas mail as soon as possible if you have an accommodation. I will require a notification from the Disability Resource Center in order to provide you with appropriate accommodation. It takes at least one quarter for accommodations to be granted. One cannot simply state that one needs

accommodations; the DRC will request appropriate documentation and make the decision. Only DRC students can be accommodated. Please let me know how I can help you.

### ***WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS COURSE?***

A variety of instructional methods and learning opportunities exists for you to master class content.

- 1. Materials in the “Start Here” Module:** You are required to review all materials in the “Start Here” module, including this Syllabus, Course Schedule, the Procedures and Guidelines of the Social Science Division, and all other documents in the module. Enrollment in the course constitutes an agreement to abide by the policies set forth in these items. By the end of the first week of the course, you should take the syllabus quiz which will also serve as a practice exam. By taking this quiz you will show that you understand how the course works, the rhythm of the class, and how your performance will be assessed. You will also be asked to post an introduction and complete all assignments listed in the Overview for week 1.
- 2. Attendance & Participation** It is well worth your time to “attend” class regularly and constructively participate. Ideally, you should log in daily. Participation is easily monitored by yourself and the professor. You are expected to keep abreast of due dates and any schedule changes. Check the announcements for class updates and reminders every time you log on. It is not the instructor’s responsibility to remind you when assignments are due. Please record your own due dates. You are expected to log on to Canvas at least four different days per week, more would be favorable. This can be for lectures, discussions, activities or other postings, or to check for announcements or emails. It is important that you check frequently as new information or directions may be posted at any time. As the instructor I can see what course elements you are looking at and how long you are looking at them. These points are an all or nothing case per week. If you log in four times during a week you will get the 10 points for that week, if not, you will not get the points. These points will not appear in the grade book until the end of the quarter.
- 3. Read the textbook:** There is a textbook for this course, listed above. It will be nearly impossible to master content without reading the textbook chapters. It is your responsibility to purchase the textbook in time for the beginning of class. It is up to you to decide the best time to complete each section’s assigned readings. Please ask if you need clarification of materials.
- 4. Discussions:** In order to delve further into course content, this course will involve discussions with your classmates. For each discussion, you have questions to research, writing to complete, postings to read, and a minimum of two replies to contribute. Posting of your initial commentary, reading others’ commentaries, and responding to others are critical for furthering your knowledge, engaging in the class, and for excelling on tests.

**If you miss a discussion, you cannot make it up since the moment will have passed. Late discussions are not accepted for any reason (a discussion cannot be re-created).**

#### **There are 4 steps to the discussion:**

- a. **Research:** A bit of research will be involved in the form of either reading an article, a passage in the textbook or searching the internet. When there is an article that is the focus of the discussion, read it first, think about the material, and relate it to the textbook. When the discussion involves internet research, be sure to adhere to best practices in choosing websites or articles for information.
- b. **Writing:** Each student will write an initial commentary (i.e., your informed scientific analysis about the material in response to the questions provided). This step should occur **BEFORE** replies to others’ commentaries are completed. Each initial commentary should be well written, proofread for grammatical and spelling errors, and substantive in content. An initial commentary of about 300 words is expected. (Do NOT post a Word.doc or other file as it will not be graded.)

All sources must be cited, whether from the textbook, assigned article, internet website, fellow student, lecture, etc. Please use the APA citation style: <http://www.apastyle.org/>. You will not be able to view other students' postings until you first post your own commentary. Be sure to thoroughly answer each part of the discussion to earn full credit.

- c. **Peer Reading:** It is informative to see how your classmates have responded to the discussion questions. You are required to read at least ten of the initial commentaries of others. The number of commentaries may vary from discussion to discussion, but if you read at least 10 commentaries, you'll complete the requirements for this part. As the professor, it is possible for me to see how many postings each student has viewed. You should read your peers' commentaries **BEFORE** posting substantive thoughtful replies.
- d. **Replies:** Each student will comment on the initial posting of at least 2 other students. This step of the discussion should begin after you have posted your commentary and read at least 10 commentaries. Each reply should be about 50 words. Responses such as "I agree" or "Terrific job", while encouraging to your peers, do not count for credit. If you use any source at all, you must cite it. **NO Wikipedia ever.** All postings should be thoughtful, informed, respectful, substantive, and constructive. Each reply should be at least several sentences in length to count for full credit.

5. **Exams:** A major portion of your grade will be derived from 3 exams, each of which is on different material. An exam may consist of multiple choice, true/false, term definitions and/or short answer essay questions. Test questions are derived from assigned readings, learning modules, videos, assigned articles, discussions, activities, internet links, lectures, tutorials, and any other instructional material presented in class. There are 50 questions on each exam (each question worth 2 points) and you will have 60-90 minutes to complete each test depending on the test. The third exam is during the last week of class.

Exams will open on Thursday at 8:00am and will close Sunday at 5:00pm. To take the test, you will need to be familiar with Canvas. Be sure you know how to successfully submit your answers when completed. Be sure to have a secure internet connection and a reliable computer. In order to submit the test on time, it needs to be started at least 90 minutes prior to the due date/time. No late tests are accepted for any reason. It is recommended, not to wait until the last 2 hours – in order to avoid any possible internet issues that may arise.

No makeup on Exams will be available without written documentation of a legitimate excuse (death, accident, hospitalization, illness, etc.). **Just saying you were sick is not enough, nor is a note from your mother.**

#### **HOW MANY POINTS MAKE UP YOUR GRADE?**

Assessment	Quantity	Value
Discussions	10 at 35 points each	350
Tests	3 at 100 points each	300
Participation	10 points each week	100
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>750</b>

***IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE LET YOUR INSTRUCTOR KNOW RIGHT AWAY. OFTEN TIMES, A PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY AND EFFECTIVELY INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL THE END OF THE QUARTER WHEN IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.***

#### **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be based upon the accumulation of points using the table below.

Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value
A = 100 – 93%	750 – 697	B = 86 – 83%	651 – 622	C = 76 – 73%	576 – 547	D = 65% 60%	494 - 450
A- = 92 – 90%	696 – 675	B- = 82 – 80%	621 – 600	C- = 72 – 70%	546 – 525	F = <59%	449 and below
B+ = 89 – 87%	674 – 652	C+ = 79 – 77%	599 – 577	D+ = 69 – 66%	524 – 495		

## Course Schedule

Week	Reading	Class Activities	Weekly topics	Discussions
Week 1 4/7 – 4/13	Ch. 1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Introductory Course Material</li> <li>Take Practice quiz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Anthropology Culture</li> <li>Religion and Spirituality</li> <li>Globalization</li> </ul>	Disc. 1
Week 2 4/14 - 4/20	Ch. 3&4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myths and Oral Traditions</li> <li>Timeline of Founders</li> </ul>	Disc. 2
Week 3 4/21 – 4/27	Ch. 5	Exam 1 (Ch. 1 – 4) (Week 1 – 3 materials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laws, Rules and Religion Tradition</li> </ul>	Disc. 3
Week 4 4/28 – 5/4	Ch. 6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oral Religions</li> <li>History of Religions and War</li> </ul>	Disc. 4
Week 5 5/5 – 5/11	Ch. 7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suffering, Evil and Religion</li> </ul>	Disc. 5
Week 6 5/12 – 5/18	Ch. 8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art, Architecture and Religion</li> </ul>	Disc. 6
Week 7 5/19 – 5/25	Ch. 9 & 11	Exam 2 (Ch. 5 – 9 & 11) (Week 4 – 6 materials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rituals and Religion</li> </ul>	Disc. 7
Week 8 5/26 & 6/1	Ch. 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Morality and Religion</li> </ul>	Disc. 8
Week 9 6/2 – 6/8	Ch. 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salvation and Religion</li> </ul>	Disc. 9
Week 10 6/9 – 6/15	Ch. 13 & 14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identity and Religion</li> <li>Gender and Religion</li> </ul>	Disc. 10
Finals week Wed, 6/16 – 6/19		Final Exam/Exam 3 (Ch. 10 ,12 – 14) (Week 7 – 10)		