

## Syllabus for Religion C 351

# *Survey of World Religions*

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

As with any Religion course at BYU, one of the objectives of this class is to increase the student's testimony of God and His work amongst His children. This objective will be met in a slightly different way in this course than it would be in most religion courses here at BYU, largely because our primary focus will *not* be the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Rather, our emphasis in this class will be the history, doctrine and practices of the various religions of the world. It is hoped that through this course students will come to a greater appreciation of God's universal love and His willingness to speak to all of His children, regardless of their religious affiliation.

It is also the purpose of this course to show that, while the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ has a unique and divinely established mission; nevertheless, many of the world's great faiths have a significant portion of religious and moral truths that God has given to them in an effort to bring their adherents closer to Him.

Finally, this course seeks to enable those who successfully complete its requirements to interact with those of other faith traditions in an informed and understanding way. Thus, in the process of this semester, students enrolled in this course should gain a general understanding of the origins, doctrines and practices of the faiths under examination—and a sense of how those relate to the same elements in the student's own religious tradition.

### METHODOLOGY:

This course will be a combination of lecture, discussion, readings and films; all designed to give the student a better understanding of the origins, culture, theology and practices of the various religions we will be studying. Each student is encouraged to participate in classroom discussions and in the out-of-class visits and assignments that make up the core of this experience. The more you engage in this class and its requirements, the more you will gain from this experience.

### READINGS:

There are two required texts for this course. They are:

Spencer J. Palmer, Roger R. Keller, Dong Sull Choi, and James A. Toronto, *Religions of the World: A Latter-day Saint View*, revised and enlarged edition (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University, 1997).

Alonzo L. Gaskill, *The Wisdom of the World's Great Religions—A Daily Devotional* (accessible @ [https://byu\\_gaskill\\_a.wispbook.com/](https://byu_gaskill_a.wispbook.com/)). **[This text is not available in the **BYU** bookstore. If you prefer a hardcopy of this text, instead of an e-copy, one can be purchased at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)]**

You are required to read the assigned portions of these two texts in their entirety during the course of the semester. With the exception of the information on *Why Should We Study World Religions?* (in the Palmer text), you should

complete your reading of the material relating to a given religion *prior* to our in-class discussion of that faith, and *before* completing the Study Guide associated with the readings for that faith. In other words, *before* we begin discussing Hinduism, you should have read the related materials in the **appendix** of the *Wisdom of the World's Great Religions* text, in addition to the information in Palmer, Keller, Choi & Toronto for that religion; and you should also have completed the study guide for that religion.

In addition, you should be reading the assigned devotional (from *Wisdom of the World's Great Religions*) **each day of the semester**—regardless of what religion we are currently studying. *The Wisdom of the World's Great Religions* text (which is different from your textbook) contains daily devotionals from the scriptures of the world's major religions. You are expected to read the assigned devotional in the *Wisdom* text **each day of the semester**. **(Your devotional readings are dated. So, for example, if today is September 12<sup>th</sup>, you should read the devotional dated September 12<sup>th</sup>.)** *Prior* to filling out the on-line study guide for a given tradition, you are also expected to read the section (in the back of the *Wisdom of the World's Great Religions* text—in the **appendix**) on how each tradition uses scripture and also the chapter on that religion in the Palmer, Keller, Choi and Toronto textbook.

Note that the *Religions of the World* textbook does *not* present a chronological approach to the world's major faiths. We, however, will examine them in chronological order in our class.<sup>1</sup> Thus, you will need to read the two required texts in the chronological order suggested in the following chart:

<i>Subject of Lecture</i>	<i>Required Readings</i>
Why Should We Study World Religions?	<b>Palmer Pp. 3-13; Gaskill Introduction.</b>
Judaism—1900 BCE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 163-185; Gaskill appendix on Judaism.</b>
Hinduism—1500 BCE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 17-33; Gaskill appendix on Hinduism.</b>
Zoroastrianism—1000 BCE.	<b>Palmer Pp.147-161; Gaskill appendix on Zoroastrianism.</b>
Taoism—604 BCE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 87-97; Gaskill appendix on Taoism.</b>
Jainism—599 BCE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 35-47; Gaskill appendix on Jainism.</b>
Buddhism—563 BCE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 49-71; Gaskill appendix on Buddhism.</b>
Confucianism—551 BCE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 99-109; Gaskill appendix on Confucianism.</b>
Shinto—Late 6 <sup>th</sup> century BCE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 111-121; Gaskill appendix on Shinto.</b>
Islam—610 CE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 213-241; Gaskill appendix on Islam.</b>
Sikhism—1500 CE.	<b>Palmer Pp. 73-83; Gaskill appendix on Sikhism.</b>
Christianity—23-30 CE. Catholic/Orthodox Split—AD 1054. Protestant Reformation—14 <sup>th</sup> —17 <sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.	<b>Palmer Pp. 187-211; Gaskill appendix on Christianity &amp; Mormon Christianity.</b>
Other faiths.	<b>No readings required.</b>

Please follow this reading schedule strictly, so that you will be prepared for our in-class discussions.

<sup>1</sup> The one exception to this will be Christianity, which we will discuss last because its various denominations were founded at very different times in the history of the world; some very early, and some quite recently.

## STUDY GUIDES:

For each of the 11 religions we will be studying, you will have a reading assignment in your two required texts. You will be expected to complete a study guide as part of your reading. These study guides will be filled out and submitted through Learning Suite. They are open book. (They will *not* cover the material from the lectures. The study guide questions will come *solely* from the assigned readings.) These 11 guides consist of Multiple Choice, True/False, and Mark All That Apply questions.

Each Study Guide will be worth 20 points. While all of the answers come directly from the textbook and/or the *Wisdom of the World's Great Religions* appendices, you will need to read carefully—as some of the answers are not explicitly stated in the texts, but are only evident when one has assimilated the material in the assigned readings.<sup>2</sup>

The Study Guides are not group assignments. You are expected to do these on your own. If I learn that you are doing these with another student—or group of students—you will receive a zero on all study guides you have completed up to that point. Please do not cheat on these.

If you do not complete and submit a Study Guide by the due date, you will receive a zero on that assignment.

[See late work policy on p.9] Thus, it is imperative that you pay attention to the due dates and complete the assignments in a timely manner. **(For assignment due dates, see p.15 of this syllabus.)**

Additionally, if you accidentally submit your study guide before you have finished filling it out, I have no way of resetting your study guide. Consequently, if you do hit “submit” instead of “save” and inadvertently submit it before you have completed the assignment, you will have to accept whatever grade you would have earned for partially completing this assignment. So, please pay attention to what you are doing so that you do not make a mistake that unnecessarily costs you points.<sup>3</sup>

## IN-CLASS POP QUIZZES:

During the course of the semester, there will be 6 in-class pop quizzes over your required daily devotional readings. Since these are unannounced pop quizzes, it is imperative that you do your daily reading for the assigned date in the *Wisdom of the World's Great Religions* text so that you are prepared when they are given. You should have completed the devotional reading for each day prior to coming to class. It is not sufficient to simply to read the verses for the day. You are expected to read the entirety of the daily devotional—the verses and also the explanatory paragraph and questions below the verses. You will need to have your own paper on which to take the quizzes. (Your pop quiz should be submitted on a sheet of paper which is no smaller than half of an 8 ½ x 11 sheet.)

The following are examples of the type of short answer questions you will be asked in these 6 quizzes: **“Yesterday’s devotional reading was from what religion?”** Or, **“The primary principle taught in today’s devotional reading is what?”** You may also be asked something like: **“Give me one of the reflection questions from today’s devotional reading.”**<sup>4</sup> If you are attentively reading each day, you should be able to answer questions such as those given in the aforementioned examples. (I will not be asking questions from devotional readings from more than two days prior to the day of the pop quiz.)<sup>5</sup>

These pop quizzes will be worth 15 points each. I will not be repeating the quiz questions for those who arrive to class *after* the quiz has been taken, or for those who miss class on the day of the quiz. So please arrive on time each day, as there will be no make-up quizzes given. **Over the years students who were absent on a day when a pop quiz was given have requested a “make-up” pop quiz. While I wish I could accommodate, the element of surprise is**

<sup>2</sup>If you miss part of a “Mark All That Apply” question (but not *all* or the *majority* of it), you will still be credited as having missed that question in its Entirety. So, read the questions and the textbooks attentively.

<sup>3</sup> Please do not ask me to make an exception for you if you accidentally submit your Study Guide before you have completed the assignment. Pay attention to what you are doing, and which buttons you are clicking, so that unnecessary mistakes like this don’t happen. In addition, if you are prone to scroll (using your mouse wheel), be careful where your cursor is on the page. Otherwise, you may accidentally change your answers as you scroll. If you do this, I have no way of knowing what your original answers were—thus, whatever answers you submitted will stand as the answers you intended to submit. So, pay attention to what you’re doing when completing on-line assignments.

<sup>4</sup>The “reflection questions” are those found at the bottom of each devotional—wherein you are invited to reflect on how you might apply that day’s reading to your personal life.

<sup>5</sup>In other words, if I give you a pop quiz on a Monday, I will not ask about a devotional from any earlier than Saturday’s reading. If I give a pop quiz on Wednesday, I will not ask about a devotional reading any further back than Monday.

what makes them “pop” quizzes. Thus, if you are absent on a day that one of these in-class quizzes is given, you will have forfeited those points. Because of the nature of these quizzes (i.e., the element of surprise), this policy is not negotiable. You will be allowed to drop one of the 6 pop quizzes; so that only 5 will count toward your final grade. (If you miss more than one of these, I would encourage you to do the extra credit assignment to make up for this loss in points.)

You are welcome to read your daily devotional text in the classroom each day prior to when the bell rings. However, your *Wisdom of the World's Great Religions* text needs to be put away prior to the beginning of class. If you have it out (on your computer, phone or in hard copy) *after* the bell has rung, you will not be allowed to take any pop quiz which might be given in class that day. In addition, you must have your cell phone, computer and/or tablet put away during in-class quizzes. *For the sake of fairness, please strictly follow this policy.* Those breaking this policy will lose credit for the quiz given that day.

If you do not know the answer to the pop quiz, or have not completed the devotional reading over which you are being quizzed, please **do not** turn in a “guess.” If you haven’t done the reading, then you haven’t earned the points for the quiz—even if you’re able to guess a semi-correct answer.

Once we have taken all 6 in-class pop quizzes, you will be expected to *continue* your daily readings in the *Wisdom of the World's Great Religions* text for the remainder of the semester.

Please remember, if we take a pop quiz in class on a given day, and then you inform a student in another section that there will be a pop quiz that day in his/her class, this would constitute a violation of the honor code. Doing so will result in a failing grade for the course. Please be honest by not cheating on these quizzes.

## EXAMS:

After we conclude our discussion of Jainism, you will have a midterm (given in the Testing Center<sup>6</sup>) which will ask questions about our in-class discussion from the first six units we have covered: **1.** Why study world religions?, **2.** Judaism, **3.** Hinduism, **4.** Zoroastrianism, **5.** Taoism and **6.** Jainism. This midterm will consist of 60 three-point questions. Therefore, the midterm will be worth a total of 180 points.

At the end of the semester, you will have a cumulative final. That exam will consist of 61 three-point questions. It will cover not only that which we discussed during the second half of the semester, but it will also ask one question from the subjects covered on the midterm. The final will be worth a total of 183 points.

The exam questions for the midterm and final will **not** be drawn from the required readings or study guides but, rather, from our in-class discussions. The questions will be Multiple Choice, True/False, and Mark All That Apply. Examples of the types of questions that *might* be asked are as follows:

True/False: Philosophical Taoism developed out of the slow evolution of Religious Taoism.

- A. True
- B. False

Multiple Choice: Which of the following is in correct order, starting with the theologically *most inclined* to live the “Oral Torah” and progressing to the theologically *least inclined* denomination of Judaism?

- A. Ultra Orthodox, Modern Orthodox, Reformed, Conservative, Assimilated.
- B. Ultra Orthodox, Modern Orthodox, Reformed, Assimilated, Conservative.
- C. Assimilated, Reformed, Conservative, Modern Orthodox, Ultra Orthodox.
- D. Ultra Orthodox, Modern Orthodox, Conservative, Reformed, Assimilated.
- E. Modern Orthodox, Ultra Orthodox, Assimilated, Reformed, Conservative.

Mark All That Apply: Though Hindus often reject this claim, historians traditionally believe that Hinduism developed out of the mixing of what pre-historic peoples?

- A. The Dravidians
- B. The Aryans
- C. The Egyptians
- D. The Mesopotamians

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<sup>6</sup> During a Winter or Fall semester, the Final Exam will be given in the *Wilkinson Center*. During a Spring or Summer term, the Final Exam will be given in the *Grant Building*. It is imperative that you check with the Testing Center for the hours in which the exam will be administered and, if you are uncertain, the location of the exam. Those who neglect to make arrangements to take the exam within the window in which it is scheduled to be administered will not be allowed to take a make-up exam and will receive a failing grade on that assignment.

There is a *note taking study guide* posted on Learning Suite which should give you a sense of where to place your emphasis when you are taking notes and preparing for our two tests. I would encourage you to use this in your preparations for both the Midterm and the Final exam. In studying for the exams, I would suggest that you do several things: (1) review the notes you took during our in-class lectures, (2) use the note taking study guide provided on Learning Suite, (3) review the Power Points I used in class [which are included in the *note taking study guide*], and (4) familiarize yourself with the vocabulary at the end of each chapter (in the text book).

## FILMS:

As part of this course, you will be required to watch (outside of class) **4** short religious documentaries. You will be allowed to select from the list below which films you would prefer to watch. Each of the videos are less than an hour in length. They are available for your viewing on Youtube.com, at the following URLs:

Religion	—	You <b>Tube</b> URL
Buddhism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/1J2QOvVoxY8">https://youtu.be/1J2QOvVoxY8</a>
Confucianism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/7pUf_g3bEC0">https://youtu.be/7pUf_g3bEC0</a>
Evangelical Christianity	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/vM8PGemBJcc">https://youtu.be/vM8PGemBJcc</a>
Hinduism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/CcR4jLvTr6E">https://youtu.be/CcR4jLvTr6E</a>
Islam	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/CHBIqCHEo6g">https://youtu.be/CHBIqCHEo6g</a>
Jainism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/rKI4t0O1clc">https://youtu.be/rKI4t0O1clc</a>
Judaism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/mFbYIYLgOTg">https://youtu.be/mFbYIYLgOTg</a>
Orthodox Christianity	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/Qnj14qRuB64">https://youtu.be/Qnj14qRuB64</a>
Roman Catholicism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/12ntGpQfgqI">https://youtu.be/12ntGpQfgqI</a>
Seventh Day Adventism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/Run7i3JKFd4">https://youtu.be/Run7i3JKFd4</a>
Shinto	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/bU-mdWMBAKY">https://youtu.be/bU-mdWMBAKY</a>
Sikhism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/hhHuTRn_tMg">https://youtu.be/hhHuTRn_tMg</a>
Taoism	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/syaUKAo6KpQ">https://youtu.be/syaUKAo6KpQ</a>
Zoroastrian	—	<a href="https://youtu.be/Z78qALBzA50">https://youtu.be/Z78qALBzA50</a>

After viewing each of the **4** movies you selected, you will be required to complete a “film report,” which consists of answering a few questions about each film you watched. (Under the *content tab*, on Learning Suite, you will find the information regarding how to complete a film report, and where to submit the assignment.) On **p.15** of the syllabus is a schedule of when each of the film reports is due. You will submit the film reports on Learning Suite on or before the scheduled due dates.

Each “film report” will be worth 15 points. Here are a few tips that will help you to earn full points on the film reports:

- ▶ Fully answer the questions. There are at least two parts to every question. So, for example, don’t just tell me Judaism is attractive because you really like their Sabbath worship. Tell me *why* you like their Sabbath worship.
- ▶ When talking about how the religion compares to your own faith, you need to tell me about your faith. I know we are at Brigham Young University, but not everyone in class is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Therefore, you won’t get full credit if you simply write, “Jews also focus on families.”

- ▶ As in the previous tip, you need to tell me why Judaism (or whatever religion the film report is about) is similar/different from your own faith. Write as though I am not a member of your faith tradition. The students that are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints typically do very well at answering these questions because they take that approach. I encourage you to do the same.
- ▶ Please put some thought into your answers. I am not looking for a tome, but five or six word answers are usually insufficient to get full credit. A few sentences will help me to see that you actually watched the film and understood its content.
- ▶ Try to keep the film in mind when filling out your reports. Remember, these film reports are supposed to be about what you watched *in the film*—not about your personal experiences with people of the same tradition described in the film.
- ▶ If you have any questions about the film reports, please let my TA know. These aren't meant to be difficult assignments. If you follow the directions and keep in mind the tips I've provided, it should be fairly easy to earn full points on these.

**Report # 1:** Watch **either** Islam, Judaism **or** Zoroastrianism.

**Report # 2:** Watch **either** Confucianism, Shinto, Sikhism **or** Taoism.

**Report # 3:** Watch **either** Buddhism, Hinduism **or** Jainism.

**Report # 4:** Watch **either** Evangelical Christianity, Orthodox Christianity, Roman Catholicism **or** Seventh-day Adventism.

If you submit a film report on a film *other than* the approved ones for that specific date, you will receive a zero for the assignment.<sup>7</sup> So please make sure you submit the correct film reports on the specific due dates.

## PAPER or BOOK REPORT:

Each student will be required to do one of the following 50-point assignments.

**Assignment #1:** Attend the worship service of another faith, and then write a 5-7-page double-spaced reflection paper on your experience. (For this assignment, you **must** attend the worship service of a faith-tradition you have **not** attended before.<sup>8</sup>) Your paper will need to include **all** of the following:

- *Before* you attend the worship service, you are *required* to call and get permission to attend. We do not want to cause offense, be disruptive, or appear disrespectful of other peoples' religion or traditions. Hence, it is *important* that you make contact (in advance) with the person presiding or conducting the service to ensure that your presence will not serve as a distraction, or in any way cause offense. **[If you have tried calling several times and no one ever answers the phone—as is often the case at LDS churches or at Kingdom Halls—it is okay to go ahead and attend, so long as you have made a good-faith effort to make contact first.]**
- *Before* you visit the worship service, write somewhere between ½ page to 1 page on what you're expecting to experience. Do not exceed 1 full page in your description of your expectations.

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<sup>7</sup>In other words, if on the first report due date you turn in a film report on Hinduism (instead of Islam, Judaism or Zoroastrianism), you will **not** get credit for that report. Nor will you be allowed to submit a second report to make up for the mistake. You can re-submit the Hinduism report on the date it is actually due, but I will not retain it until its actual due date.

<sup>8</sup>**Please plan to stay for the entire worship service.** The *Handbook of Instructions* indicates that members “should stay until the meeting ends.” (Handbook 2:140, 18.2.2). The Prophet Joseph Smith said: “It is an insult to a meeting for a person to leave just before its close... I forbid any man leaving just as we are going to close the meeting. He is no gentleman who will do it. I don't care who does it, even if it were the king of England. I forbid it.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* p.287 & 297.) It would be rude for you to attend the worship service of another faith, and get up and leave while they are still in the process of worshipping.



- While you are at the church, mosque, synagogue, temple, etc., you must engage in a discussion with at least one worshiper committed to that faith. Ask the practitioner questions about his/her faith, and what elements mean to/for him or her. Be sure that you do this in such a way that you do not offend or appear insensitive. It is recommended that (prior to approaching one of the practicing members of the selected faith) you have at least **5** written out questions that you can ask. In addition, please remember that *in many cases* it would *not* be appropriate to ask questions or engage in a discussion during the liturgical portion of the worship service. Thus, you are cautioned to consider carefully the propriety of talking at the time that you select to conduct this portion of your assignment.
- *After* your visit, record your feelings about your experience. Among other things, you should include **all** of the following:
  - Tell how the experience compared to your pre-recorded expectations of the visit.
  - Explain what was most striking or impressive about the experience, and why it struck you.
  - Indicate what was most surprising about the experience, and why.
  - Note which things you experienced were most like your personal religious tradition.
  - Note which things you experienced were most different from what your faith does or teaches.
  - Include how attending this religious service changed your feelings or perceptions about the faith you decided to visit.
  - Record what you learned from the person you interviewed (or spoke with).
  - Your 5-7 page paper *must* be no less than 5 complete double-spaced pages in length. A 4 & 3/4-page paper will not receive full credit.
  - You **must** label (via a **subheading**) each of the aforementioned categories in the body of your paper. See the *Sample Paper online*. Please do not use “cutesy” titles. Use simple headings like, “Pre-Visit Expectations” or “Most Striking” or “What I Learned.”
  - Number the pages in your paper.
  - Your margins should *not* be larger than 1 inch.
  - Please use 12-point Times New Roman font.
  - Your personal details at the top of the first page (e.g., name, section number, etc.) should be **single-spaced**.
- *Please Note:* In order to get full credit on this assignment, you must do **all** of the aforementioned requirements. If your paper is missing portions of the delineated requirements (including the subheadings), you will lose a percentage of your points. Additionally, if you have visited a faith prior to the beginning of this semester, it will not count for this assignment. You will need to attend a faith’s services after having received this syllabus and the paper’s requirements. In addition, for this assignment, you are expected to attend a faith-tradition that you have never visited before. Thus, if you visit one that you have previously visited, you will not receive credit on this assignment.
- There is a sample term paper posted on Learning Suite. I would strongly encourage you to look it over. It is representative of the type of paper I am looking for. Using the headings found in the on-line sample paper in

your own term paper will increase the likelihood that you will earn a good grade on this assignment. (The on-line term paper has a short section on why the student decided to attend that particular faith. You are **not** required to include that in your paper though—if you keep it short—you are allowed to include that.)

- Your paper should be submitted on *Learning Suite* on or before the due date listed on **p.15** of this syllabus. I will *not* be accepting hard-copy submissions.

**Assignment #2:** In addition to the course's required readings, read *Know Your Religions Volume 3—A Comparative Look at Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses* (Springville, UT: Cedar Fort, 2016). **[**This title is currently only available in e-book format.**]** After reading this text, write a 5-7 page double-spaced book report on it. Your book report should include **all** of the following:

- The publication information of the book you read (i.e., author's name, title of the book, city and state in which it was published, publisher's name, year of publication).
  - You should indicate why you chose to read this book rather than attend a worship service.
  - Your report should describe at least **5** things you did not know before reading this book—things you learned from reading the text. Please number these in your paper.
  - Include your feelings as to how well the book presented the information (e.g., was it clear, applicable, fair and non-biased, organized, etc.). Don't worry about offending the author.
  - Describe one parallel you see between this faith and your own personal religious tradition. It can be one listed in the book or one you thought of because of the book.
  - Include how reading this book changed your feelings or perceptions about the faith discussed, or your feelings about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
  - Indicate whether the book debunked or overturned any stereotypes you previously held and, if so, what were those misconceptions.
  - Your paper must be no less than 5 complete double-spaced pages in length. A 4 & 3/4-page paper will not receive full credit.
  - Your margins should not be larger than 1 inch.
  - Please use 12 point Times New Roman font.
  - Number the pages in your paper.
  - Your personal details at the top of the first page (e.g., name, section number, etc.) should be single-spaced.
  - You must label (via a subheading) each of the aforementioned categories in the body of your paper.
- *Please Note:* In order to get full credit on this assignment, you must do **all** of the aforementioned requirements. If your paper is missing portions of the delineated requirements, you will not earn a 100% on this assignment.
  - Your paper will be due on *Learning Suite* on or before the due date listed on **p.15** of this syllabus. I will *not* be accepting hard-copy submissions.



## LATE WORK:

In general, I am hesitant to accept late work. While I have no desire to be difficult, I ask that you act as a responsible adult by trying earnestly to complete and submit your assignments on (or before) their scheduled due dates. That being said, if you have what strikes me as a legitimate reason for missing a scheduled due date,<sup>9</sup> I will *consider* accepting a late assignment for partial credit. (If you miss a due date, you should talk to me *immediately* about the potential for partial credit.) Assignments submitted on the day after their scheduled due date will receive **75%** of the points earned on the assignment.<sup>10</sup> Those submitted on the second day after the scheduled due date will receive **50%** of whatever points were earned. Late assignments submitted on the third day after the original due date will receive **25%** of the points earned on the assignment. No late work will be accepted more than three days after the original due date.<sup>11</sup> All late work should be submitted to the TA, *not to Dr. Gaskill*.

Unless we make other arrangements, assignments (other than the in-class pop quizzes) should be submitted on Learning Suite; *not via e-mail or in hard copy*. By staying enrolled in this class, you are agreeing to these terms.

## ATTENDANCE:

For a number of reasons, attendance at lectures is a required component of this course: **1.** If you are enrolled in a **daytime** class (during a Fall or Winter semester), each absence will result in a deduction of **5** points from your total score. If you are enrolled in an **evening** class (or a Spring or Summer term class), each absence will result in a deduction of **10** points from your total score. **2.** There are occasional pop-quizzes given in class. These make up a sizable portion of your grade. If not in attendance, you will forfeit those points. **3.** The information needed for the midterm and final will be given in class. Thus, to miss class is to miss the answers to the questions which will be on the tests. **4.** You've paid to get an education—so come to class and get one.

You will be given one “free” absence during the course of the semester for which you will not be docked points. (This “free” absence cannot be used on the last day of class.) It is anticipated that this “freebie” will be used because of sickness, the death of a loved one, an important scheduling conflict, or the like. Use that one exception wisely, as I will not be giving others.

You will be considered “absent” on any day that you are not in attendance the *entire* period. If you arrive late for class, having missed a significant portion of that day's lecture, you will lose the attendance points even though you made an appearance. Likewise, if you leave early, you will also have points deducted from your grade. (Please do not mark the roll if you arrive significantly late or plan to leave early.)

Additionally, as it states on the roll circulated in class each day, you are responsible for ensuring that you mark the roll each class period. If you are in attendance, but do not mark the roll, you will be counted absent for that day and will have attendance points deducted from your total score. Please do not ask me to return points to you for classes you attended but during which you neglected to sign the roll. It is imperative that you be responsible for this assignment. In addition, do not sign the roll and then leave class early.

If you register late for the class, you will still be held responsible for the materials, attendance and assignments you missed on those days you were not yet registered for the class. The semester and the course begin on the same day for **everyone**. The fact that you registered late does not take away your accountability for the materials and attendance during that first portion of the semester. If you choose to stay registered in this class, you are agreeing to the entire attendance policy.

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<sup>9</sup> “I didn't know it was due on that day” will **not** be considered a legitimate excuse. The due dates are all listed in the syllabus, and I announce assignment due dates in class numerous times prior to the actual due date of any assignment. Please pay attention to the in-class announcements and also to the due dates listed in your syllabus.

<sup>10</sup> So, for example, if an assignment was worth 50 points (and you earned a 40/50 on the assignment), were you to submit it on the day after it was due, you would receive 30/50. If you submitted that assignment on the third day after it was due, instead of 40/50, you would receive a 10/50.

<sup>11</sup> In addition, no assignments will be accepted after the last day of class. Assignments submitted during reading days or during finals will receive a zero.

## IN CLASS BEHAVIOR:

Individuals signing the roll and then leaving early, regularly chatting with friends, reading or sending text messages, leaving to use the phone, working on homework for another class, or playing games (on a laptop/I-pad/cell phone/etc.) during class, or those arguing with and/or being disrespectful to the professor, will have a percentage of their total points for the semester deducted from their final grade as a result of their disruptive and/or inappropriate behavior. If the temptation is too much for you, turn your phone/computer/tablet off, and don't sit next to your friends. Please be courteous by obeying this rule.

## E-MAILING ME:

If you send me an e-mail, please include in every e-mail exchange your name, the class you're registered in (e.g., World Religions), and the time your class meets. Additionally, please do not e-mail me through Learning Suite. (Those e-mails are not forwarded to my e-mail address. So, I often do not receive them.) Please e-mail me using my work e-mail address ([alg@byu.edu](mailto:alg@byu.edu)). This will ensure that I receive your correspondence. If you have a question about your grade, it is best to ask the TA prior to asking me, as he does much of the grading. The TA's e-mail address is [gaskillTA@gmail.com](mailto:gaskillTA@gmail.com).

## SUMMARY POINT VALUES AND GRADE SCALE:

- **Readings:** I will not be giving you points for your readings, as the pop quizzes and the Learning Suite Study Guides will prove whether you completed the required readings.
- **Study Guides:** Each of the 11 Study Guides will consist of twenty questions—and will be worth a total of 20 points each. Thus, the total potential points for the Study Guides is 220. These will be Multiple Choice, True/False, and Mark All That Apply.<sup>12</sup>
- **Pop-Quizzes:** During the course of the semester, I will give 6 in-class pop-quizzes which will be drawn from your daily devotional readings. These will each consist of one question worth 15 points. I will drop one of these six quizzes. Thus, you will have the potential to earn a total of 75 points on the 5 pop quizzes that count toward your final grade.
- **Midterm Exam:** There will be a sixty-question midterm exam (given in the Testing Center) after we complete our in-class discussion of Jainism. The questions will be Multiple Choice, True/False, and Mark All That Apply. Each question will be worth three points. The exam will be worth 180 points total.
- **Final Exam:** There will be a cumulative Final Exam during the week of University Finals. It will consist of 61, 3-point questions—for a total of 183 points. As with the Midterm, the questions on the Final will be Multiple Choice, True/False, and Mark All That Apply.<sup>13</sup> If you miss the final, you will not be permitted to take a make-up exam. So, please do not wait until the last hours of the last day to take the final exam.<sup>14</sup>
- **Film Reports:** There are 4 required movies for which you will be submitting a film report. Each film report will be worth 15 points, for a total of 60 points.

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<sup>12</sup>If you accidentally hit the “submit” button instead of the “save” button, you will not be allowed to re-submit the study guide. Your score on that assignment will be whatever you earned by submitting a partially completed study guide. So, please be cautious about what you click. Additionally, if you wait until the last hours of the last day an assignment is due—and then you have computer, internet or server problems— you will not be allowed to turn your assignment in late without a point penalty. You will have several days to complete and submit each of these study guides. Please do not procrastinate submitting these. Anticipate the possibility of computer or internet problems.

<sup>13</sup> As already noted, during a Winter or Fall semester, the Final Exam will be given in the *Wilkinson Center*. During a Spring or Summer term, the Final Exam will be given in the *Grant Building*.

<sup>14</sup>Please note, religion finals are not administered the entire day on the last day of finals. Thus, if you plan on taking your final the very last day, you should check with the administration at the Testing Center to determine what time the last religion final will be administered. If you miss this exam, you will receive an **F** on it. So please, do not neglect these details.

- **Paper or Book Report:** This will be worth 50 points.
- **Attendance:** If you are enrolled in a Fall or Winter semester **daytime** class, you will lose **5** points for each un-excused absence. If you are enrolled in an **evening** class (or a Spring or Summer term class), you will lose **10** points for each un-excused absence. Points will also be deducted if you are in attendance but neglect to sign the roll, or if you come in late or leave early. The professor reserves the right to decide what constitutes arriving *too* late or leaving *too* early.<sup>15</sup> You will be allowed one un-excused absence; no more than that. So please plan to attend each day. **NOTE: At the end of the semester, the total points lost for non-attendance will be deducted from the score you received on your term paper.** Consequently, if you have more than one unexcused absence during the course of the semester, you will see your term paper score go down after the last day of class.
- **Extra Credit:** There are at least two extra credit opportunities in this class. The first is worth 15 points, and can be earned by reading (in its entirety) the book *Catholic and Mormon: A Theological Conversation*,<sup>16</sup> and then writing a 5-7 page double-spaced paper, in which you discuss at least four principles of good inter-faith dialogue demonstrated in that book.<sup>17</sup> In order to obtain the entire 15 points, you must read the entire book and give examples from the book where such principles are taught or demonstrated. You must also include in your paper the page numbers of each example cited from the book. Please do not wait until late in the semester to decide if you wish to complete this extra credit assignment, as copies of the book will likely be checked out of the library. The second extra credit opportunity is worth 5 points. It consists of completing the end-of-the-semester course evaluation. There *may be* other extra credit opportunities which arise.
- **Behavioral Deductions:** As dictated by University Policy, I reserve the right to deduct a percentage of your grade for disruptive in-class behavior, such as reading or sending text messages, playing computer games, distracting social chatter, leaving to use the phone, or working on non-class related things during class (e.g., homework, surfing the internet, texting, playing games, etc.). The same rule applies to arguing with or being disrespectful to the professor. In addition, regularly missing parts of the daily lectures because you arrived late or left early is also disruptive behavior that will result in a deduction of points from your final grade for this class. **If you leave after signing the roll, I will still count you as absent. In addition, I will give you a behavioral deduction of points for so doing. Being in class long enough to sign the roll does *not* constitute sufficient attendance to earn the credit for that day. You need to be in class the *entire* class period. If you remain enrolled in this class, you are agreeing to this policy.** I reserve the right to make “behavioral deductions” without warning or notifying you.
- **Syllabus Quiz:** Once you have read the syllabus in its entirety, you must take and submit on Learning Suite a 5-point quiz over the syllabus. By taking that quiz, you are certifying that you have read the syllabus in its entirety, understand its contents, and agree to abide by the policies articulated therein. If you complete the syllabus quiz by the scheduled due date, you will be awarded points for the questions you were able to answer correctly. If you *do not* take the quiz, but chose to remain enrolled in the course, you will still be held responsible for the content of the syllabus, but you will forfeit the points for this assignment. Requests for exceptions to class policies (to which you agreed to by taking the syllabus quiz) may result in a deduction of points from your final grade.
- **Total Points for the Course:** Assuming we get through all of the religions we intend to discuss, the total points for this course will be 791. The projected grade scale is as follows:

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<sup>15</sup>If you know you are going to be late or need to leave early, make arrangements in advance with your professor. This may or may not result in a deduction of points.

<sup>16</sup>Stephen H. Webb and Alonzo L. Gaskill, *Catholic and Mormon: A Theological Conversation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 190 pages.

<sup>17</sup> In this paper, your assignment is **not** to focus on doctrine. Rather, you are to look for—and highlight—examples of helpful ways to interact with a person of another religious tradition, as demonstrated by the authors in the text.

Total Points	Letter Grade	Percentage	Total Points	Letter Grade	Percentage
791 - 743	<b>A</b>	100-94%	592 – 569	<b>C</b>	74-72%
742 – 703	<b>A-</b>	93-89%	568 – 545	<b>C-</b>	71-69%
702 – 672	<b>B+</b>	88-85%	544 – 514	<b>D+</b>	68-65%
671 – 648	<b>B</b>	84-82%	513 – 490	<b>D</b>	64-62%
647 – 624	<b>B-</b>	81-79%	489 – 466	<b>D-</b>	61-59%
623 – 593	<b>C+</b>	78-75%	465 - 0	<b>F or E</b>	58-0%

**INACCURACIES IN YOUR POSTED GRADE:** Please regularly check your grades on Learning Suite. If you notice a score has not been entered, or the score posted is inaccurate, please let the TA know ASAP. If you wait until *after* final grades have been submitted to the University to point out an inaccuracy in your grade, I will not (at that late date) go back and change your score; so please notify the TA *prior to* the end of the semester of any concerns you have about your posted grades. It will be *our assumption* that the information we enter into the grade book is correct. It will be *your responsibility* to make sure that the scores entered therein reflect what you believe you earned on each assignment. We will do our best to be accurate, but you will need to do your best to be vigilant and timely in reporting any errors you see so that we can address those before the semester ends.

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***Please carefully read the following information provided by the University***

#### **Copyright Violations:**

All course materials are copyrighted, and any posting, selling or disseminating of those materials—in hard copy or electronic format—without the written permission of the professor is illegal, and subject to criminal prosecution. In addition, it is against university policy to make audio or video recordings of class lectures.

#### **Honor Code**

It is a violation of the Honor Code for a student to represent someone else's work as his/her own. In addition, posting on the internet or discussing with other students the questions or answers to any of the course Study Guides, Quizzes, Exams or Assignments is a violation of the BYU honor code. As a condition of attending BYU, you affirmed that you would obey the Honor Code and help others to do the same. We view violations of the Honor Code with extreme seriousness. If it is discovered that you have shared such details, or cheated on any assignment/exam in any way, you will fail this course and your case will be referred to the Honor Code office.

Please remember that, by attending Brigham Young University, you have made a commitment to fully and faithfully live the honor code:

- Be honest
- Live a chaste and virtuous life
- Obey the law and all campus policies
- Use clean language
- Respect others
- Abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee, and substance abuse
- Participate regularly in church services
- Observe Dress and Grooming Standards—including being **clean-shaven** (if you are a male)
- Encourage others in their commitment to comply with the Honor Code

Please do not violate *any* of these policies—in my class, or during your time at BYU.

### **Preventing Sexual Harassment**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sexual discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity receiving federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sexual discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 801-422-5895 or 801-367-5689 (24 hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 801-422-2847.

### **Classroom Disruption**

Disruptive behavior, including arguing with or being disrespectful to the professor, multiple tardies, leaving class early, cell phone interruption or use, and/or other disruptions (e.g., students who dominate class discussion with excessive comments/questions, talking during class discussion and lectures, reading unrelated materials, etc.) will result in a deduction of points.

### **Students With Disabilities**

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability, you are strongly encouraged to contact the University Accessibility Center (UAC) located at 2170 WSC (801-422-2767) as soon as possible. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable university approved accommodations.

If it is determined that you have a disability which warrants accommodations, the university will provide you with an **accommodation letter**. The letters inform the student's professors that the student is registered with the University Accessibility Center, has been approved to receive certain accommodations in order to meet the requirements of the courses in which he or she is enrolled, and list and describe each of the accommodations warranted.

If you have been granted accommodations by the university accessibility center, please notify me immediately. It is my desire to honor these allowances, and to help you to succeed in my class. That being said, in order to be fair to each of my students, I want to make sure that you and I understand what the UAC accommodations do—and what they *do not* do.

Regarding attendance, the policy in my course is that students are only allowed one unexcused absence per semester before their grade is adversely affected. The accessibility center asks that I grant those with accommodations 50% *more* absences than I would *normally* allow—which would equate to 1.5 absences a semester without any grade penalty. If your accessibility letter grants you accommodations on absences, I will allow you up to three unexcused absences before I deduct any points from your grade. If your condition requires that you miss more often than that, please provide a note from your doctor so that I can keep that on file—thereby removing a grade penalty for excessive absences. (Please remember that you will still be responsible for any material you miss on the days you are absent. In each class period, we cover material that will appear on the exams.)

Concerning late work, if you wish to have an extension (beyond the scheduled due date), it is your responsibility to request that prior to the day the assignment is due. (This stipulation appears in your UAC accommodations letter.) As specified by the university, you may have up to—but *not* in excess of—a 4-calendar day extension.<sup>18</sup> On any requested extension, you and I will need to agree on the length of that extension. Any assignment that is submitted *after* our agreed extended deadline will receive the same penalty students without accommodations would receive on their late work.<sup>19</sup>

As stipulated by the UAC, your accommodations are not retroactive. They began the day I received your accommodations letter. If you feel that aspects of your accommodations (mentioned in your UAC letter) need to be explained to me—of if you feel you need to inform me of special needs you will have during the course of the semester—please arrange a time to visit with me at my office.

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<sup>18</sup> As stipulated by the university, this accommodation does not allow for an extension beyond the last day of class (even if the student's request is made before the due date).

<sup>19</sup> Please see course syllabus for the delineation of penalties for late work.



If you have any questions about *any* of these stipulations, or need any clarification on my policies (and how those pertain to your UAC-granted accommodations), please let me know as soon as possible. I wish you success in my class and in all of your endeavors here at *Brigham Young University*. Please let me know how I can assist you.

### Help for Those Feeling Distressed

If at any point during the course of the semester you experience feelings of distress, depression, anxiety or the like, please consider calling BYU's Counseling and Psychological Services: 801-422-3035 (or 801-422-2222 on weekends and after hours). They can provide services that will help you through any difficult times you may encounter. Other numbers that may be helpful to you include:

Student Health Center 801-422-2771  
University Accessibility Center 801-422-2767  
Multicultural Student Services 801-422-3065  
International Student Services 801-422-2695  
Women's Services & Resources 801-422-4877  
Student Advisement Center 801-422-3826  
University Police 801-422-2222

You may also wish to visit <https://help.byu.edu/common-concerns> where a list of services and resources are provided.

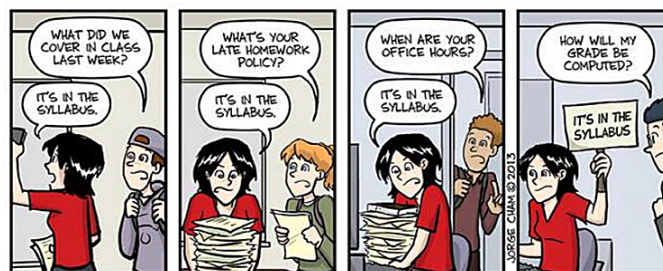
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### ASKING FOR EXCEPTIONS TO POLICIES:

When students follow the policies and instructions in the syllabus, the course runs smoothly. However, when students seek exceptions to the course policies and rules, it adversely affects my ability to **treat each student fairly**. Thus, I would ask that you **not** request that I make exceptions to policies. If I make exceptions for one student, **fairness** requires that I make exceptions for all students.

### PURPOSE OF THE SYLLABUS:

Please learn the course requirements and refer to the syllabus regularly. (Because the syllabus is digital, you should be able to do a quick electronic search for key words of questions you have about policies, due dates, etc.) Often students casually read the syllabus and then expect the professor to answer dozens of questions covered therein. As the famous colloquialism goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words":



## IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message is brought to you by  
every professor that ever lived!

**Please check the syllabus. If your question isn't answered there, please feel free to ask my TA or me.**



## Assignment Due Dates

When?	What?	Where?
Sunday, January 13	Judaism Study Guide	Learning Suite
Saturday, January 19	Syllabus Quiz	Learning Suite
Monday, January 21	1 <sup>st</sup> Film Report	Learning Suite
Saturday, January 26	Hinduism Study Guide	Learning Suite
Saturday, February 9	Zoroastrianism Study Guide	Learning Suite
Monday, February 18	Taoism Study Guide	Learning Suite
Tuesday, February 19	2nd Film Report	Learning Suite
Saturday, February 23	Jainism Study Guide	Learning Suite
Saturday, March 2	Buddhism Study Guide	Learning Suite
Saturday, March 9	Confucianism Study Guide	Learning Suite
Tuesday, March 12	3rd Film Report	Learning Suite
March 13—March 18 (Wednesday—Monday <sup>20</sup> )	Midterm	Testing Center (in Heber J. Grant Building)
Thursday, March 14	Shinto Study Guide	Learning Suite
Sunday, March 17	Islam Study Guide	Learning Suite
Tuesday, March 19	Term Paper	Learning Suite
March 28—April 18	Student Ratings	On Line
Saturday, March 30	Sikhism Study Guide	Learning Suite
Thursday, April 4	Extra Credit	Learning Suite
Saturday, April 6	Christianity Study Guide	Learning Suite
Tuesday, April 9	4th Film Report	Learning Suite
April 19-24 (Friday—Wednesday <sup>21</sup> )	Final Exam	Finals Testing Center ( <u>in the Wilkinson Center</u> )

<sup>20</sup> The last day of the midterm will be the “late day,” and the Testing Center will charge you a fee to take the exam on that last day.

<sup>21</sup> On the last day of finals week, religion exams are **not** given out the full day. Thus, if you intend to take your final on the last day of finals week, you should check with the Testing Center to find out when the last religion final is administered.