**REL 2300, World Religions**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brandy Stark

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Email: Please use the My Courses email to contact me. If My Courses is not working, you may contact me at stark.brandy@spcollege.edu.

**Text:**Many People, Many Faiths, (Ellwood and McGraw) 10th Edition.

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**Course description:**

This course examines the general characteristics of the major religions of the world. Topics include the nature of religion, Indigenous Religions, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Christianity, Islam and New Religious Movements. Each is examined in its cultural context, how basic human concerns are addressed, the way purpose for life is defined, and the uniqueness of religious practice. This course partially satisfies the writing requirements outlined in the General Education and Enhanced World View Requirements. Study Abroad opportunities may apply to this course (http://www.spcollege.edu/studyabroad/).

Prerequisite: [ENC 0025](https://webapps.spcollege.edu/instructors/admin/courses) or [EAP 1695](https://webapps.spcollege.edu/instructors/admin/courses) or satisfactory score on the SPC placement test.

**Course Expectations:**

**IT IS STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR.** This includes inquiries on assignments, late assignments, the need to withdraw from the class, or if there is an issue submitting assignment. Lack of contact does not promote excuse from missing work, non-attendance in class, or grades. Non-attendance and non-communication will contribute to withdrawal from the course.

Please remember that emails, writing assignments, and discussion forums are a form of non-verbal communication. Be sure that they are well written and maintain a tone of respect toward the instructor and fellow students.

On days that the college is closed I will not check into MyCourses. Please allow 1 week for grades to be entered. Most assignments should be graded within 24 – 48 hours.

**Assignments:**

All materials are posted online and should be submitted through the course shell.  Assignments are due at the START of class on the date listed. For students who are new to the MyCourses experience, please review the tutorial provided by the college. Students may also contact the Help Desk for additional assistance.

Computer and/or modem issues are NOT instructor responsibility, nor are they considered an excuse for late or missing work.  Students are expected to have a backup plan for online emergencies. .

Academic Honesty is also a requirement for this course. Plagiarism or cheating in any form will result in an automatic grade of “0” and possible dismissal from the course. Please review proper formats for citations and be aware that the Originality Check is on for every assignment. Academic Honesty is also a requirement for this course. Please review our college policy here: <http://www.spcollege.edu/academichonesty/>

**Grades:**

Grades will be listed in the grade book, which students should have access to through MyCourses. Students have 1 week after an assignment is completed and graded to verify that the grade is present and/or to ask questions about the grade. After the one week elapses, the grade will become permanent. Any questions about the final grade should be asked by the deadline of the final assignment. Once grades are submitted by the instructor, the course is considered closed.

 Grades will be assigned as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grades** | **Score** |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89  |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | Under 60 |
|   |   |

**Breakdown of Assignment:**

**Attendance/Participation: 200 points**

Most class days will have a participation component to them, and thus attendance is very important for this course. I will take attendance at random throughout the class. If you are not present at the time of attendance, you will be marked absent. This includes students who arrive late to class or who leave early. Absences will affect the participation grade with -20 points per absence. Missed field trip (or other special class event, including guest speakers) will result in a 40 point deduction. The only exception is for students who document a legitimate emergency – death in the family or emergency admittance into the hospital. (I do not accept doctor appointments, meeting with SPC councilors/staff/faculty, or hospital visitations as excuses). Students who inquire about an excused absence must provide me with documentation for validation.

**Classroom behaviors:** In an effort to maintain a distraction-free classroom focused on learning and student success, students will be notified if the behavior is not compliant with the SPC Code of Conduct.  If the behavior is not corrected, students may be asked to leave the classroom and/or be required to meet with administration. In some instances, the student may be permanently withdrawn from the class. SPC Student of Code Conduct can be found at:  <http://www.spcollege.edu/studentconduct/>.

**In addition to the listed college policy, I also expect the following from students:**

No texting, cell phones, or miscellaneous computer work during the class period.

Arriving to class on time and staying until the end of class. It is up to the instructor to determine if she wishes to lock the classroom door 10 minutes after the start of class or to admit late students.

Respectful behavior and speech in interactions with the instructor, fellow students, guests, and course materials.

I expect students to wait to be recognized before speaking in class.

Getting up and leaving the room causes distractions. Please use the restroom before and after class. Remain seated for the duration of guest speaker presentations and video presentations.

**Exams (400 points)**

Students will take 4 non-comprehensive exams containing 25 multiple choice, multiple select, and true/false questions. Test review terms are hosted in each folder in the file listed as "Introduction and terms" along with other materials. Students are responsible to review these terms. Students who wish to may also meet with the instructor at this time.

These exam are listed in My Courses under the EXAMS module (Content, Lessons, Exams Folder).  Tests are open only during limited durations based upon the day, date, and time of the class in which the test will be taken.  Students will take the exams during the class period.  Students are to take the exams alone, without other student collaboration, and without text or notes unless otherwise indicated by the instructor.

Students may not miss an exam without a valid excuse (EMERGENCY doctor's note or validated family emergency). In such case, students have one week to complete a make up exam.  Make up exams will be essay format text-based research essays.

Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 3 (100 points)

Exam 2: Chapters 4 -5 (100 points)

Exam 3: Chapters 6 – 8 (100 points)

Exam 4: Chapters 9 – Afterword (100 points)

**Writing Assignments (400 points)**

Essays are located in My Courses under the ESSAYS module.  Essays should be 500 - 550 words long.  Please submit through the drop box.  Each essay is due at the start of class on the due date listed.  Use MLA format.  Include a works cited with three sources; one of these sources MUST be the textbook.  Include in-text citations.  Recommended:  Review MLA format with the Learning Support Center or via the folder provided in this chapter.

Due to the emphasis on writing in this course, please be aware that I expect students to submit college level work. This means that writers need to make a careful analysis of the sources of information utilized for the assignments. Consider why the research was written, who wrote it, who it was written for (intended audience), and any biases present. Writings should reflect an analytical evaluation process. DO NOT USE *Wikipedia, Spark Notes, World Book/Encarta/Britannica* or other general encyclopedias, dictionaries, or inappropriate web research as a basis for research. These sources will not be counted as scholarly and will be held against the grade.

Please allow enough time to complete the assignments. My advice to students is to plan to submit assignments at least 1 day before the stated deadline. There is no exception for late or missing work (this includes technical issues or emergency situations). Since most or all assignments are open from the start of the course, I also encourage students to not only work ahead, but to find a beta reader (the Learning Support Center is a great source for assistance). Please remember that assignments should always include a works cited, should have proper grammar and spelling, and should follow proper MLA format. (Note: I prefer MLA but will accept APA format).

Writing Project 1: Role of Religion (100 points)

Writing Project 2: Chinese Philosophies (100 points)

Writing Project 3: Clergy Interview (100 points)

Writing Project 4: Article Project (100 points)

**EXTRA CREDIT (40 points)**

Students will also have access to four extra credit assignments. Extra Credit will be due the same day as its corresponding exam (i.e., Extra credit 1 is due on the same day as Exam 1) at the start of the exam session. Students may work ahead on all extra credit assignments but it will NOT be taken late.

Extra Credit 1: Aliens (10 points)

Extra Credit 2: Movie Analysis (10 points)

Extra Credit 3: Photo Research (10 points)

Extra Credit 4: Quiz over chapters 1 - Afterword (10 points)

**Late Work:** Time management skills are essential to academic and career success. Because assignments are open to students to work on from the start of class, **I WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK AFTER THE STATED DEADLINE (no exceptions). All work is due at the start of the class session.**  Note: Students MAY work ahead if they wish.

**BY REMAINING IN THIS CLASS YOU ARE AGREEING TO ADHERE TO THESE POLICIES.**

**Course Schedule**

**DT campus, 2153, 9:30 – 10:45**

It is imperative that students check this News section on a regular basis.  Not only do I use it as a listing of course dates (I do not use the MyCourses calendar, with the exception of the exam dates), I list special events, general announcements, and course changes here.

Schedule may be augmented as needed. It is student responsibility to note changes. Assignments can be found in the corresponding chapter modules on MyCourses. Note that unless otherwise stated, assignments are due at **NOON ON THURSDAYS.**

**Dates that the college is closed:**  Sept. 7 (Labor Day), October 20 (Faculty In-Service Day), Nov. 11 (Veteran's Day), Nov. 25 - 29 (Thanksgiving).

Classes Begin: Aug. 17

Chapter 1: August 19- 24

Chapter 2: August 26 – 31

Chapter 3: Sept. 2, 9, 14

Sept. 7: Labor Day, NO CLASS

**Writing 1 due: Sept. 9**

**Exam 1 and extra credit 1:Sept. 14**

Chapter 4: Sept. 16, 21, 23

Chapter 5: Sept. 28, 30

**Writing 2 due: Sept. 28**

**Exam 2 and extra credit 2: Oct. 5**

Chapter 6: Oct. 7

Chapter 7: Oct. 12, 14, 19

Chapter 8: Oct. 21, 26, 28

**Writing 3 due: Oct. 26**

**Exam 3 and extra credit 3 due: Nov. 2**

Chapter 9: Nov. 4, 9, 16

Nov.11: Veteran’s Day, no class

Chapter 10: Nov. 18, 23

Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 25 – 29, No class

Module/short text chapter Afterword: Nov. 30, Dec. 2

**Writing 4 due:** Nov. 30

**Exam 4 and extra credit 4 due: Dec. 7**

Please make sure that you have no questions on your grades!  I will submit grades immediately after the final exam closes.  Ask before that deadline expires.

Course is finished. Grades submitted.

Have a wonderful Winter Break!