



Nanchang University
REL110 World Religion
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

Credit: 4

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session (3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the world's largest faith traditions. Our goal is to gain, as far as is possible, a participant's appreciation of what is cherished by adherents of these traditions. Students will get familiar with and perception of the rituals, ceremonies, teachings, beliefs and worldview assumptions of adherents of the religions of India (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism), religions of China (Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism) and religions of the family of Abraham (Judaism, Christianity and Islam). The religious influences in the East and West, the interactions of various religions and the globalization of world religions will also be discussed.

The goals of the course are to aid students in their future interaction with adherents of other faith traditions and to provide them with an accurate historical, creedal and experiential introduction to the worldview assumptions and religious experiences of adherents of various traditions. Students will also be encouraged to reflect on the centrality of religious faith for many worldwide and explore possible roles for religions in globalization and social progress.

Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Required Textbook

Textbook: *World Religions (6th Edition)*, by Warren Matthews. Publisher: Cengage Learning, Inc. Publication Date: Oct. 1, 2012. ISBN: 9781111841706

Grading

• Participation	10%
• Reports	30%
• Discussion	10%
• Midterm Exam	20%



•Final Exam

30%

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	

Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Introduction of the course and textbook

I - Religions of Tribes and City-States

Chapter 1 Religions of the Americas

Class 2:

Chapter 2 Religions of Africa

Class 3:

II - Religions Arising in India

Chapter 3 Hinduism

Class 4:

Chapter 3 Hinduism (Cont.)

Report 1

Class 5:

Chapter 4 Buddhism

Class 6:

Chapter 4 Buddhism (Cont.)

Class 7:

Chapter 5 Jainism and Sikhism

Class 8:

Chapter 5 Jainism and Sikhism (Cont.)

Report 2

Class 9:

III - Religions of China and Japan



Chapter 6 China and Japan

Class 10:

Chapter 6 China and Japan (Cont.)

Class 11:

IV - Religions That Influenced East and West

Chapter 7 Ancient Religions of Iraq and Iran

Class 12:

V - Religions of the Family of Abraham

Chapter 8 Judaism

Class 13:

Chapter 8 Judaism (Cont.)

Class 14:

Review of Chapter 1 to Chapter 8

Midterm

Class 15:

Chapter 9 Christianity

Class 16:

Chapter 9 Christianity (Cont.)

Class 17:

Chapter 10 Islam

Class 18:

Chapter 10 Islam (Cont.)

Class 19:

Review of Chapter 9 to Chapter 10

Discussion

Class 20:

Chapter 11 New Forms of Older Religions

Class 21:

Chapter 11 New Forms of Older Religions(Cont)

Class 22:

Chapter 12 Globalization and World Religions



Class 23:

Chapter 12 Globalization and World Religions(Cont)

Class 24:

Glossary and related definitions

Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on “Late Withdrawals”

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved ONLY in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the



course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.