

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RELIGIONS

1. Instructor Information	
Name	Dr. Hafiz Abdul Ghani
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2. Course Information	
Code	ISLM401/CRST453
Credit Hours	3
Pre-requisite	ISLM101/CRST152
Status	Core for Majoring Students

3. Students Learning Outcomes

By taking the course and fulfilling all requirements, students should be able to:

- Explain essential beliefs and practices of major religions of the world.
- Identify shared similarities and significant differences among major religions.
- Evaluate personal religious perspective and reflect on personal journey of exploring of truth.
- Appreciate diversity and demonstrate respect for different religious perspectives.
- Develop social skills and recognize the value of interdependence and teamwork.

4. Course Introduction & Description

Man's quest for God or Self during the thousands of years of humankind's history, has led down numerous pathways. The outcome has been the huge, assorted variety of religious expressions and spiritual experiences found around the world. It ranges from the perpetual assortment of Hinduism; the emptiness of Buddhism; the self-control of Jainism; and harmony of Sikhism to the monotheism of Judaism; unconditional love of Christianity and integrative Oneness of Islam; and to the oriental philosophies of Shinto, Taoism and Confucianism.

All prophets have experienced the same whole reality/truth yet just their expression and language vary. All religions preach veneration for truth, honest character, nobility of human rights, love for mankind, compassion, social justice, and human brotherhood but when we look at the history of mankind it shows up sadly that religious diversity has not been much effective in promoting peace, harmony, and unity in diversity to contribute to the excellence of the world.

This course not only appreciates religious diversity but also highlights the shared similarities. The course fundamentally introduces the academic study of major religions of the world (Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,) in their historical, moral, spiritual, and cultural contexts. This course further expounds that the basic principles never change, and that is what is important to follow and preach. The crux of the course is that the true progress of human beings on earth is the progress of their vision to visualize the:

- One God of Israel
- Redeeming radiance of Christianity
- Integrative Glory of Islam
- Cosmic greatness of Hinduism
- Joy in truth of Buddhism
- Spiritual victory of Jainism
- Harmony of Sikh Gurus
- Wisdom of Confucius
- Simplicity love of Tau, and
- Moral uprightness of Shinto

5. Course Policies

For the successful qualification of the course, students must attend classes regularly (punctuality marks will be given beyond 80%), show good behavior and learning attitude, do before-hand readings, meet deadlines for assignments, do activities inside/outside of classroom, and act upon the values and policies of FCC. The course is made highly interactive through different activities. Students

are required to play a positive, healthy and constructive role in class activities for significant learning experience. Students are supposed to cooperate in maintaining good atmosphere in the classroom. Students must respect the dignity of all fellows and show respectful attitude towards religious diversity.

6. Assessment and Grading Criteria

Assessment will be done on the following basis:

1. **Studentship (20 marks):**

Prompt response on online communication, Active participation in learning process, attendance in online/on campus classes, on time completion of exercises and tasks, responsible and ethical attitude and behavior.

2. **Research Assignment/Group Project (30 marks):**

Students will be asked to develop a research proposal on a selected/ assigned topic. Or they will be given a group project to present in the class if classes are conducted on campus

3. **Reflective Journals (20 marks):**

Students must write weekly learning journals and submit an end-term comprehensive reflective report.

4. **Examinations (30 marks):**

End-Term examination will be of 30 marks (Both subjective and objective type questions will be asked)

7.Required Readings

1. W. Owen Cole (Editor): ***SIX WORLD FAITHS***
Continuum, London, New York
2. Huston Smith: ***THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS***
Suhail Academy, Lahore, Pakistan
3. Michael Molloy: ***EXPERIENCING THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS***
Mayfield Publishing Company, California
4. Class Notes provided by the teacher

8. WEEKLY PLAN (Tentative)

Week	Topic	In-class Activities	Out of class Activities
1	Getting to Know	> Introductions > Overview of the Course	Material arrangements
2	General Themes & Contextualization	Discussion Questions 1. What is religion 2. Functions of religion? 2. Ways of studying religion 3. Need of Comparative Study 3. Classification of religions	Reading form recommended texts
3	Hinduism 1. Historical Background 2. The Hindu Scriptures	Lecture / Discussion	Reading on Hinduism
4	Hinduism 3. Essential Beliefs 4. Hindu practices	Lecture / Discussion Hindu Practices	Reading on Hinduism
5	Buddhism 1. Historical Background 2. The Founder	Lecture / Discussion	Reading on Buddhism
6	Buddhism 3. The Scripture(s) 4. Essential Beliefs	Lecture / Discussion Buddhist Practices	Reading on Buddhism
7	Sikhism 1. Historical Background 2. The Founder/Prophet	Lecture / Discussion	Reading on Sikhism
8	Sikhism 3. Sikh Scripture(s) 4. Essential Beliefs	Discussion on Sikh practices	Reading on Sikhism

9	<p style="text-align: center;">Judaism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical Background 2. The Founder/Prophet 	Lecture / Discussion	Reading on Judaism
10	<p style="text-align: center;">Judaism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Scripture(s) 4. Essential Beliefs 	Lecture / Discussion (Jewish Practices)	Reading on Judaism
11	<p style="text-align: center;">Christianity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical Background 2. The Founder/Prophet 	Lecture / Discussion	Reading on Christianity
12	<p style="text-align: center;">Christianity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Scripture(s) 4. Essential Beliefs 	Lecture / Discussion (Christian Practices)	Reading on Christianity
13	<p style="text-align: center;">Islam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical Background 2. The Founder/Prophet 	Lecture / Discussion	Reading on Islam
14	<p style="text-align: center;">Islam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Scripture(s) 4. Essential Beliefs 	Lecture / Discussion (Muslim Practices)	Reflection
15	Recap		
End-term Examination			