

Model Syllabi 2

14-week World Religions Class Schedule (based on two meetings per week)

Week	Topic and Reading	Overview of subjects
1a	Course introduction. Cover Preface (ppi-xvii)	Course overview and requirements. Religions in our world today. A word about problematic terms ending with the suffix "-ism."
1b	Approaching religious traditions. Reading: Chapter 1, entire (pp. 1-21)	The insider-outsider challenge. Colonialism and world religions. The European Enlightenment (Box 1.1). The religionist/reductionist debate. A dramatic model for the study of world religions, including the ten elements of performance.
2a	Expressive traditions of Oceania, America and Africa (I) Reading: Chapter 2, Part 1 (pp. 22-31)	The world stage in 1500 CE (Box 2.1). Obstacles to understanding oral cultures (Box 2.2). Lived time through ceremonial gardening. Lived place through Aboriginal Dreaming. Maori tattoos as lived object. Sioux Sun Dance as "donation" of one's body to Wakan-Tanka. Navajo healing as "restoration."
2b	Expressive traditions of Oceania, America and Africa (II) Reading: Chapter 2, Parts 2-3 (pp. 31-44)	Preserving cultural memories (Box 2.3). Mexican identity and "re-enactment" of the Spanish conquest. Candomblé dance as "symbolization" of the orishas. The Dagara experiences of Malidoma Somé as "transformation." Fon divination as "accession." <i>Sundiata</i> (the Lion King) story as "transmission."
3a	Quiz on Chapters 1-2	Concepts and issues in religious studies.
3b	Zoroastrian tradition. Reading: Chapter 3, entire (pp. 45-60)	The problem of dating ancient materials (Box 3.2) Ahura Mazdā. Spenta Mainyu and Angra Mainyu. The Amesha Spentas and <i>fravashis</i> . Sayoshyant. Zarathusthra's spiritual biography. Key figures in the development of Zoroastrian tradition. The <i>Avesta</i> . The <i>Bundahishn</i> creation story. Mazdean religious life.
4a	Judaic tradition (I) Reading: Chapter 4, Part 1 (pp. 61- 79)	Ha-Shem. YHVH. Angels. Elijah. The sephiroth. The <i>ba'alim</i> . Abraham's lineage. Moses. Judges. Monarchs. Early prophetic figures. Temple rebuilders. Hellenistic Jews. Rabbis. Medieval Jews. Mystics. Enlightenment thinkers. Modern Jews.
4b	Judaic tradition (II) Reading: Chapter 4, Parts 2-3 (pp. 79-92)	The <i>Tanakh</i> . The <i>Talmuds</i> . A modern view of Havah. Jewish ritual life. Symbolism in Judaic ritual (Box 4.4). Scriptural parallels from the Ancient Near East (Box 4.1). Biblical criticism (Box 4.2).
5a	Christian tradition (I)	God the Father. Christ. The Holy Spirit. Angels. Sainly figures. Mary. Jesus of Nazareth's life story. Early followers of Jesus. Martyrs. Emperors. Religious specialists. Players in the Protestant Reformation, and

	Reading: Chapter 5, Part 1 (pp. 93-114)	Catholic Counter-Reformation. More protestant Christians. Kierkegaard. Modern activists.
5b	Christian tradition (II) Reading: Chapter 5, Parts 2-3 (pp. 115-28)	Search for the historical Jesus (Box 5.1). Rivals to early Christianity (Box 5.2). The Christian sacraments (Box 5.3). The Old Testament. The New Testament. The <i>Confessions</i> of Augustine. The <i>Nag Hammadi</i> texts. The <i>Woman's Bible</i> . The iconoclastic controversy and Byzantine tradition of icon painting.
6a	Islamic tradition (I) Reading: Chapter 6, Part 1 (pp. 129-47)	Allāh. Angels. Khidr. Bedouin godlings. Al-Mahdī. Allāh's prophets. Prophet Muḥammad's life story. The Rightly Guided caliphs. Umayyad caliphs. Abbāsīd and
6b	Islamic tradition (II) Reading: Chapter 6, Parts 2-3 (pp. 147-62)	The Qur'ān. The Qur'ān and Islamic cosmology (Box 6.1). The Six Articles of Faith. The ḥadīth. The Sūfī path of seven valleys (Box 6.3). Aristotle and the medieval scholastic philosophers (Box 6.2). The sharī'ah. Islam and women. The Five Pillars. Pilgrimage to Mecca. Symbols of the ḥajj (Box 6.4).
7a	Bahá'í tradition Reading: Chapter 7, entire (pp. 163-76)	God. Manifestations. The Báb. Bahá'u'lláh's life story. 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Key figures in the development of Bahá'í tradition. The <i>Bayán</i> . Basic teachings. Authoritative works. Healing through science and spirituality. Life according to the Bahá'í calendar.
7b	Mid-term review day.	Review chapters on Zoroastrian, Judaic, Christian, and Bahá'í traditions.
8a	Mid-term exam on Chapters 3-7	Test on knowledge of Zoroastrian, Judaic, Christian, and Bahá'í traditions.
8b	Jain tradition Reading: Chapter 8, entire (pp. 177-92)	Jīva. 24 tīrthaṅkaras. Parśva. Vardhamāna Mahāvīra's life story. Key figures in the development of Jain tradition. The divine sound. The Five Homage Mantra. Mahāvīra's last sermon. The lost scriptures. Jain parapsychology. The ritual of holy death (<i>saṃlekhanā</i>).
9a	Buddhist tradition (I) Reading: Chapter 9, Part 1 (pp. 193-213)	The buddha-dharma. Imaginal buddhas, bodhisattvas and godlings. Supreme buddhas. Arhats. Bodhisattvas. Gautama Buddha's life story. Aśoka Maurya. Bodhidharma. Hui-neng. Tantric adepts. Chinul. Thirteenth century Japanese reformers. Tenzin Gyatso. Sulak Sivaraksa.
9b	Buddhist tradition (II) Reading: Chapter 9, Parts 2-3 (pp. 213-29)	Indian and Chinese Buddhist traditions (Box 9.3). The <i>Tripīṭaka</i> . The Four Noble Truths (Great Facts). The Noble Eightfold Path (Box 9.4). Mahāyāna sūtras. Nikāya commentary. Buddhist meditation. Advice on learning (Box 9.2). Symbolism of Māra (Box 9.1).
10a	Hindu tradition (I)	Brahman. Vedic devas and devīs. The Hindu Trimūrti. ṛsis. Priests. Renunciates. Bhaktas. The six orthodox

	Reading: Chapter 10, Part 1 (pp. 230-47)	darśanas. Three Vedānta commentators. New Hindu saints. Modern gurūs and activists.
10b	Hindu tradition (II) Reading: Chapter 10, Parts 2-3 (pp. 247-60)	The Āryans: Hindu and Mazdean branches (Box 3.1 and Box 10.1). The <i>Ṛgveda</i> . The <i>Upaniṣads</i> . The five sheaths (Box 10.3). The meaning of "cow" and "horse" (Box 10.4). The <i>Bhagavagītā</i> . The <i>varṇa-āśrama-dharma</i> (Box 10.2). Further Hindu literature. Inner and outer pilgrimages. Hindu rites of passage (saṃskāras).
11a	Sikh tradition (I) Reading: Chapter 11, Part 1 (pp. 261-77)	Sat Nām. The Sikh scripture as Gurū. Life sketches of the Ten Sikh Gurūs in historical context. Gobind Singh's successors. Rañjīt Singh. Respondents to British colonial rule. Modern Sikhs. Cross-cultural Sikhs.
11b	Sikh tradition (II) India's religions Reading: Chapter 11, Parts 2-3 (pp. 277-86) Review Chapters 8-11	Religious devotion in medieval North India (Box 11.1). <i>Gurū Granth Sāhib</i> . Basic Sikh teachings. <i>Dasam Granth</i> . Symbolism of the 5 Ks (Box. 11.2). "Finding" women in Sikh history (Box 11.3). Poetry by Amrita Pritam. The practice of contemplating the Divine Name. Taking <i>hukam</i> (Box 11.4). Review India's religions: Jain, Buddhist, Hindu, and Sikh traditions.
12a	Chinese traditions (I) Reading: Chapter 12, Part 1 (pp.287-305)	Shang-di and Tian. Dao. Culture heroes. Sage kings. Daoist immortals. Folk deities. Confucian ancestors. Emperors. Lao-zi. The life story of Confucius. Mo-zi. Mencius. Zhuang-zi. Xun-zi. "Religious Daoists." Proponents of Dark Learning. Zhu Xi. Wang Yang-ming. Mao Ze-dong. Contemporary Daoists.
12b	Chinese traditions (II) Reading: Chapter 12, Parts 2-3 (pp. 305-21)	The development of Chinese religions (Box 12.1). The <i>Five Classics</i> ; The <i>Four Books</i> ; How honest and thoughtful was Confucius? (Box 12.2). The <i>Dao de jing</i> . The <i>Zhuang-zi</i> and commentary. Xun-zi's <i>Art of War</i> . Symbols of yin and yang (Box 12.3). Divination in the <i>Book of Changes</i> .
13a	Shintō tradition (I) Reading: Chapter 13, Part 1 (pp. 322-35)	Kami as mysterious energies. Nature and mythic kami. Emperors. Charismatic humans.
13b	Shintō tradition (II) Reading: Chapter 13. Parts 2-3 (pp. 336-45)	<i>Kojiki</i> and <i>Nihongi</i> ; modern Shintō theology; Japanese poetry; purity and communion in Shintō ritual.
14a	The challenge of religion. East Asian religions Reading: Chapter 14, entire (pp. 346-53) Review Chaps. 12-13	A challenge from your author; dealing creatively with discomfort; atheism and mysticism; the Wheel of Faiths; parting words. Review the religions of East Asia: Confucian, Daoist, Shintō, and Japan's New Religions (i.e., Tenrikyō).
14b	Review chapters for the Final Exam	