

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Fall 2020 9/1-12/22
840:212:02 (Remote Asynchronous Learning) Religions of the Western World

Instructor: Dr. James Pavlin **Online Office Hours:** live discussion in the Chat Room, or by **Email:** jdpavlin@rci.rutgers.edu

Course Description: The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to the academic study of religion by focusing on the monotheistic religions that originated in the Ancient Near Eastern and eventually emerged as world religions. After reviewing current methodologies and concepts related to the study of religion, the course will focus on the origin and development of the scriptures, beliefs, and practices of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each religion will be studied with particular attention paid to readings of primary sources related to origins and historical developments in terms of theology, philosophy, and mysticism.

SAS Core Code: Historical Analysis (HST), Social Analysis (SCL), Philosophical and Theoretical Issues (AHO)

Required Texts:

Ludwig, Theodore M. *The Sacred Paths of the West*, 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education Inc., 2006. ISBN: 0-13-153906-X

Van Voorst, Robert E. *Anthology of World Scriptures: Western Religions*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007. ISBN: 0-495-17059-3

Learning Methods and Resources: This class is designed for online remote learning owing to the current coronavirus/covid-19 crisis. All course work will be conducted online. The course material and work will operate through the use of Rutgers' web based Learning Management System called Sakai. All students are required to know how to use Sakai. The site will contain announcements, syllabus, required and recommended resources, chat room, discussion forum, meetings (BigBlueButton), media gallery, tests and quizzes, assignments, and grades, among other things. Student self-discipline and motivation to participate fully in the online learning experience cannot be over emphasized. You must truly be an active learner to benefit from and do well in the course.

Core Curriculum Goals: This course fulfills the following core curriculum goals.

- H. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- K. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- L. Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.
- M. Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.
- N. Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.
- O. Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.

Student-Wellness Services:

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible.

Course Requirements:

1) Expectations for Participation in Online Activities:

Recorded lectures using BigBlueButton: In place of the traditional in class meetings, I will be posting recorded lectures and presentations on BigBlueButton. (See the training video in Sakai Resources.) There will be two presentations posted for each weekly lesson (see the course schedule below). The presentations will be posted on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for asynchronous viewing. The length of time for each presentation will vary according to the topics under discussion. Students can access the recorded sessions as often as needed, and they can be viewed in full or in short segments as is convenient for each student.

Discussion forum: The conversation threads in the forums are meant to be open, threaded conversations corresponding to the topics being discussed in the weekly lessons. The conversations are asynchronous and are meant to encourage the development of ideas through interaction with the professor and other students. Therefore, students are encouraged to initiate conversations and respond to posts by other students.

Chat Room: There will be live chat room meetings available to all students throughout the week. I will let you know in advance when I will be available for these live chats on a weekly basis. This will offer the students the opportunity to discuss course related issues with me in real time. Students can also request a live chat room meeting with me. However, keep in mind that these meetings are always open to all students to participate in. If you have personal concerns that you want me to be aware of, then you must email me directly for private conversation.

Students who encounter any extended problems, for example, for medical, family emergency, or religious reasons, that would prevent them from participating in the online course work or from completing the course requirements must inform me by email about the reason and duration of the absence. It is important to stay in touch with me so we can make arrangements for you to submit all required work.

2) Short Answer Essay Quizzes (30% of final grade): There will be bi-weekly short essay quizzes for this course. The questions will be focused on main themes of religious thought related to historical and theological concepts. Students are expected to write a well developed essay demonstrating a clear understanding of the topic, incorporating religious concepts and terminology from the textbooks, and using relevant scriptural passages as supporting evidence. The quizzes will be made available on Sakai Tests and Quizzes for a two week period according to the schedule below. Once you begin the quiz, you will have a 45 minute time limit to complete it. Quizzes must be completed in one sitting. You cannot save the quiz and return to complete it at a later time. If you submit an uncompleted quiz by mistake, you must contact me. I will determine if you deserve to retake the quiz or submit any missing portion of the essay.

3) Tests (40% of final grade): Eight multiple choice/true-false tests are given to test the students' grasp of ideas and concepts under discussion. The tests will be made available on Sakai Tests and Quizzes. Tests 1 and 2 will be available for a two week period, and the remaining tests for a one week period, according to the schedule below. Once you begin the test, you will have a 45 minute time limit to complete it. Tests must also be completed in one sitting. You cannot save the test and

return to complete it at a later time. If you submit an uncompleted test by mistake, you must contact me. I will determine if you deserve to retake the test or do other make up work.

4) Final Exam (30% of final grade): The final exam will be a comparative essay on a topic of the student's choosing. He/she will have to discuss the topic from the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic perspectives. As with the short essay quizzes, students are expected to write a well developed essay demonstrating a clear understanding of the topic they choose, incorporating religious concepts and terminology from the textbooks, and using relevant scriptural passages as supporting evidence. The exam will be available on Sakai Assignments as listed below. For this assignment the student can save his/her work during the time given for the exam submission. Students have the option of writing the essay directly into the inline textbox on Sakai or uploading a Microsoft Word or PDF version of the final essay. Students are encouraged to start thinking about the final exam topic early. You can begin to prepare the essay during the semester before the submission period begins. The exam must be submitted by the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted without prior permission.

Grading Policy: All final grades will be calculated according to the Rutgers' grading system as follows: 4.0 = A (100-90), 3.5 = B+ (89-85), 3.0 = B (84-80), 2.5 = C+ (79-75), 2.0 = C (74-70), 1.0 = D (69-65), 0.0 = F (64 and below). An incomplete ("T" grade) for this course will not be given unless the student consults with me about the reason for not completing the course work on time.

Grades that appear in the Sakai Gradebook are close estimations of your grade. I reserve the right to adjust and override these grades as I deem necessary. All final grades are based on my assessment of your work.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments (This outline is duplicated in the Lessons link on Sakai.):

Topic 1: Introduction to the Academic Study of Religion and the Historical Context for the Monotheistic Religions

Week 1 (9/1-9/7) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 1 Perspectives on the Religious Path; Ludwig, ch. 2 Beginnings of the Human Religious Adventure (We are skipping Ludwig, ch. 3.)

Short Essay Quiz for Week 1: Ludwig, chs. 1 and 2 on Sakai Tests & Quizzes. Students will have a 45 minute time limit to answer a specific question related to a major topic from either of these two chapters. **Opens 9/1 at 6:00 am and is due by 9/14 at 11:55 pm.**

Week 2 (9/8-9/14) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 4 Religions of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece; Van Voorst, ch. 1 Western Scriptures among the World's Religions; Ludwig, ch. 5 The Zoroastrian Tradition; Van Voorst, ch. 2 Zoroastrianism

Short Essay Quiz for Week 2: Ludwig, chs. 4 and 5 and Van Voorst, chs. 1 and 2 on Sakai Tests & Quizzes. Students will have a 45 minute time limit to answer a specific question related to a major topic from one of these four chapters. **Opens 9/8 at 6:00 am and is due by 9/21 at 11:55 pm.**

Test 1: Sakai Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, chs. 1, 2, & 4: **open from 9/8 6:00 am to 9/21 11:55 pm;** 33 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit.

Test 2: Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Van Voorst, chs. 1 and 2, Ludwig, ch. 5: **open from 9/8 6:00 am to 9/21 11:55 pm**; 33 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit.

Topic 2: Judaism

Week 3 (9/15-9/21) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 95-103 Jewish Sacred Story and Historical Context; Van Voorst, ch. 3 Judaism, pp. 37-45 (Introduction), 46-49 (Call of Abraham, Call of Moses, Crossing at Red Sea, Covenant with Israel), 69 (Establishment of Circumcision), 66 (Ordination of Priests), 60 (Holy War), 49 (Psalm for David), 55 (Messianic King), 67-68 (Call to be a Prophet and Women as Judges and Prophets), 63 (God's call to an Unfaithful People)

Week 4 (9/22-9/28) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 103-114 Jewish Sacred Story and Historical Context; Van Voorst, ch. 3 Judaism, pp. 50 (Ezra's Enforcement of *Torah* Observance), 75-76 (Chain of Rabbinic Tradition and Replacement of Sacrifice by Study), 78 (Why Judaism Survives under Persecution).

Short Essay Quiz for Weeks 3 and 4: Ludwig, ch. 6, and Van Voorst, ch. 3 (assigned readings) on Sakai Tests & Quizzes. Students will have a 45 minute time limit to answer a specific question related to a major topic from the assigned readings in either of these two chapters. **Opens on 9/22 at 6:00 am and is due by 10/5 at 11:55 pm.**

Test 3: Sakai Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 6, Van Voorst, ch. 3 (assigned readings): **open from 9/28 6:00 am to 10/5 11:55 pm**; 33 multiple choice and true/false questions; 45 min. time limit.

Week 5 (9/29-10/5) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 7 Jewish Worlds of Meaning; Van Voorst, ch. 3 Judaism, p. 51 (Oneness of God), 52-54 (God's Creation of the World and Revolt of Humanity), 55 (Prayer for Divine Deliverance), 57-60 (Ten Commandments, Laws on Slaves, Violence, and Property, and Justice for All), 56-57 (Final Judgment of the World and Resurrection of the Dead).

Week 6 (10/6-10/12) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, Ch. 8 Ritual Practices and the Good Life; Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 71-72 (Observance of the Sabbath, Offerings for the Forgiveness of Sin, and Day of Atonement), 70 (Establishment of the Passover), 73 (Kosher and Nonkosher Foods), 61 (Sexual Love), 65 (Virtuous Wife), 77 (Duty to Marry and Have Children).

Short Essay Quiz for Weeks 5 and 6: Ludwig, chs. 7 and 8 and Van Voorst, ch. 3 (assigned readings) on Sakai Tests & Quizzes. Students will have a 45 minute time limit to answer a specific question related to a major topic from the assigned readings in either of these two chapters. **Opens on 10/6 at 6:00 am and is due by 10/19 at 11:55 pm.**

Test 4: Sakai Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig chs. 7 and 8, Van Voorst, ch. 3 (assigned readings): **open from 10/12 6:00 am to 10/19 11:55 pm**; 33 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit.

Topic 3: Christianity

Week 7 (10/13-10/19) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 9 Christian Sacred Story and Historical Context, pp. 143-152; Van Voorst, ch. 4 Christianity, pp. 83-90 (Introduction), 90 (Birth of Jesus), 91 (Jesus' Miracles), 98 (Parables of Jesus), 103 (Sermon on the Mount), 92 (Arrest, Trial, and Death of Jesus), 94 (Resurrection of Jesus and Ascension of Jesus), 95 (Coming of the Holy Spirit), 111 (Twelve Apostles and Their Mission), 96 (Persecution of the Apostles), 97 (Council at Jerusalem).

Week 8 (10/20-10/26) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 9 Christian Sacred Story and Historical Context, pp. 153-166; Van Voorst, ch. 4 Christianity, p. 117 (Scripture Canon in Formation), 119-123 (Early Noncanonical Jesus tradition, Gnostic Christianity and Orthodox Christianity, and Women and Gnosticism), 112-114 (*Matthew's Church Order, Peter as the Rock, and Qualifications of Bishops and Deacons*), 125 (Papal Primacy), 110 (Fall of Rome).

Short Essay Quiz for Weeks 7 and 8: Ludwig, ch. 9 and Van Voorst, ch. 4 (assigned readings) on Sakai Tests & Quizzes. Students will have a 45 minute time limit to answer a specific question related to a major topic from the assigned readings in either of these two chapters. **Opens on 10/20 at 6:00 am and is due by 11/2 at 11:55 pm.**

Test 5: Sakai Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 9, Van Voorst, ch. 4 (assigned readings): **open from 10/26 6:00 am to 11/2 11:55 pm**; 33 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit.

Week 9 (10/27-11/2) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 10 Christian Worlds of Meaning; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 99 (Divine Word Became Human), 99-100 (Nicodemus Visits Jesus and A Sinful Woman is Forgiven), 101 (Results of Justification), 102 (The End of Time).

Week 10 (11/3-11/9) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 11 Ritual Practices and the Good Life; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 115-117 (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confession and Anointing), 114 (Women in the Early Church), 107 (Directions concerning Marriage), 108 (Love), 109 (Ethics in the Christian Household), 110 (Being Subject to Authorities).

Short Essay Quiz for Weeks 9 and 10: Ludwig, chs. 10 and 11 and Van Voorst, ch. 4 (assigned readings) on Sakai Tests & Quizzes. Students will have a 45 minute time limit to answer a specific question related to a major topic from the assigned readings in either of these two chapters. **Opens on 11/3 at 6:00 am and is due by 11/16 at 11:55 pm.**

Test 6: Sakai Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, chs. 10 and 11, Van Voorst, ch. 4 (assigned readings): **open from 11/9 6:00 am to 11/16 11:55 pm**; 33 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit.

Topic 4: Islam

Week 11 (11/10-11/16) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 12 Muslim Sacred Story and Historical Context, pp. 196-207; Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 129-134 (Introduction), 134-135 (Call of Muhammad), 146-147 (The Holy Qur'an), 136-137 (Mission of Muhammad and Opposition to Muhammad), 138 (The Night Journey), 139 (Flight to Medina), 138 (The Hypocrites), 148-150 (On Unbelievers, Jews, and Christians), 140 (Death of Muhammad).

Week 12 (11/17-11/23) Reading Assignments: Ludwig, ch. 12 Muslim Sacred Story and Historical Context, pp. 207-219; Van Voorst, ch. 5, 167-170 (A Sunni Creed), 170-171 (A Shi'ite Creed), 171-172 (Sufi Poetry on Love for God).

Short Essay Quiz for Weeks 11 and 12: Ludwig, ch. 12 and Van Voorst, ch. 4 (assigned readings) on Sakai Tests & Quizzes. Students will have a 45 minute time limit to answer a specific question related to a major topic from the assigned readings in either of these two chapters. **Opens on 11/17 at 6:00 am and is due by 12/2 at 11:55 pm.**

Test 7: Sakai Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 12 and Van Voorst, ch. 5 (assigned readings): **open from 11/23 6:00 am to 12/2 11:55 pm**; 33 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit.

Week 13 (11/24-12/2 *includes 2 extra days for the Thanksgiving break***) Reading Assignments:** Ludwig, ch. 13 Muslim Worlds of Meaning; Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 141-143 (God's Absolute Oneness, God's Names, God's Power, and God's Predestination), 144-146 (Creation and Adam, Eve, and the Fall), 150-152 (Resurrection and Judgment and Heaven and Hell).

*****Short Essay Quiz for :** Ludwig, chs. 13 and 14 and Van Voorst, ch. 4 (assigned readings) on Sakai Tests & Quizzes. Students will have a 45 minute time limit to answer a specific question related to a major topic from the assigned readings in either of these two chapters. **Opens on 11/24 at 6:00 am and is due by 12/9 at 11:55 pm.*** (Note change in opening and closing dates.)**

*****Final Exam:** Comparative Essay on Sakai Assignments: **Opens on 12/1 at 6:00 am and is due by 12/10 at 11:55 pm**, there is no time limit for the final exam, students can save work during the open period and return to the exam and continue working on it until the due date.***

Week 14 (12/3-12/9) Reading Assignments: Ritual Practices and the Good Life, Ludwig, ch. 14, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 153-158 (all readings in the section on Ethics), 158-163 (all readings in section on Worship and Ritual).

Test 8: Sakai Tests & Quizzes: Islam: Ludwig chs. 13 and 14, Van Voorst, ch. 5 (assigned readings): *****open from 12/3 6:00 am to 12/10 11:55 pm*****; 33 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit. **(Take note of the open and close dates that differ from the previous weeks.)**

12/10 Last day of regular classes

Test 8 and Final Exam are due by 11:55 pm.