

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Spring 2015
840:212:03 Religions of the Western World MW (4:30-5:50) FH-B4/CAC

Instructor: Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 134/DC **Office Hours:** MW 6:30-7:00, or by appointment **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 of the Near Eastern and Western traditions. 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, mysticism, and authority.

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

Study and Research Resources: The classroom experience will be enhanced through the use of Rutgers's web based interactive technology called Sakai. All students are required to know how to use Sakai. Although this course is not designed to be an online or hybrid course, Sakai will be our main means of communication outside the classroom. Any student who has difficulties accessing computers or the internet, or has any issues that might hinder the use of Sakai, must speak to me about possible alternatives for the Sakai based course work. The site will contain announcements, assignments, tests and quizzes, recommended resources, discussion board, and gradebook (for estimated grade progress), among other things.

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.

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade): Students are expected to attend each class on time and contribute to class discussions. Students are also expected to participate in all classroom activities such as small group discussions or writing assignments. Attendance will be taken for each class. Any unexcused absences will result in a reduction of this part of the student's grade by ten points (on a scale of 100) per unexcused absence for the first 5 absences. For 6 or more absences, the student will lose all of the attendance portion of the grade plus another 10 points off the final grade. Students who encounter any extended problem with absences, for example, for medical, family emergency, or religious reasons, must inform me in writing (email acceptable) about the reason and duration of the absence. Decisions on excused absences will be made on a case-by-case basis. **Extended absences may require the student to do extra written assignments.**

Self-Reporting of Absences:

In accordance with University policy, if you expect to miss a class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. **Please note that this does not necessarily mean that you will get an excused absence. That is based on my discretion.**

Classroom Etiquette: The use of lap tops is permitted only for purposes related to the course. All cell phones, iPods, and any other hand held devices are strictly forbidden during class. Violation of this policy will result in your being requested to leave the class and receiving an unexcused absence.

2) Quizzes (45% of final grade): Multiple choice, true-false, or essay quizzes will occur on a regular basis to test the students' grasp of ideas and concepts under discussion. The quizzes will be made available on Sakai: Tests and Quizzes. Quizzes will be made available for a 5 day period according to the schedule below. Once you begin the quiz, you will have a set time limit to complete it. Once you start the quiz, you must complete it in one sitting. You cannot save your answers and return at a later time to finish it. In case of unintended submission or any other problems taking the quizzes, students must contact me immediately. I will determine if you deserve to retake the quiz.

3) Three tests (45% of final grade, each test is 15%): The tests will be multiple choice and true/false. The questions will be based on the key terms and concepts at the end of each chapter or section in both textbooks. The students must understand these terms in the context of the readings and class discussions. Make up exams will be given to students having an excused absence. The student must contact me immediately upon returning to class so that arrangements can be made with the department secretary, who will proctor the exam.

Grading Policy: All final grades will be calculated according to the Rutgers' grading system: 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 only 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.

Office of Disability Services:

Any student requiring special accommodations to participate in and successfully complete this course must contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>) to discuss accommodations.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

1/21 Introduction: Review of Syllabus and overview of course content.

1/26 Perspectives on the Religious Path, Ludwig, ch. 1

1/28 Beginnings of the Human Religious Adventure, Ludwig, ch. 2
Religions of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece, Ludwig, ch. 4

Quiz 1 Ludwig chs 1, 2, & 4 (Sakai:Tests & Quizzes from 1/28 7:00 pm to 2/2 9:00 am)

2/2 Western Scriptures among the World's Religions, Van Voorst, ch. 1

2/4 Zoroastrian Tradition, Ludwig, ch. 5
Zoroastrianism, Van Voorst, ch. 2

Quiz 2 Ludwig ch 5, Van Voorst chs 1 & 2 (Sakai:Tests & Quizzes from 2/4 7:00 pm to 2/9 9:00 am)

2/9 Origins of Judaism, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 95-97; Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 37-45 (Introduction), 46 (Call of Abraham), 69 (Establishment of Circumcision), 46 (Call of Moses,)

2/11 Moses and the Kingdom of Israel, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 97-101; Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 47-49 (Crossing at Red Sea, Covenant with Israel), 66 (Ordination of Priests), 60 (Holy War), 49 (Psalm for David), 55 (Messianic King)

2/16 The First Temple and the Rise of the Prophets, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 102-103; Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 67-68 (Call to be a Prophet and Women as Judges and Prophets), 63 (God's call to an Unfaithful People)

2/18 Rise of Rabbinic Judaism, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 103-114; Van Voorst, ch. 3, 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)

Quiz 3 Ludwig ch 6, Van Voorst ch 3 (Sakai:Tests & Quizzes from 2/18 7:00 pm to 2/23 9:00 am)

2/23 God, Creation, and Sin, Ludwig, ch. 7, pp. 115-121, Van Voorst, Ch. 3, pp. 51 (Oneness of God), 52-54 (God's Creation of the World and Revolt of Humanity), 55 (Prayer for Divine Deliverance)

2/25 Repentance and Transformation, Ludwig, ch. 7, pp. 122-126; Van Voorst, Ch. 3, pp. 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)

Quiz 4 Ludwig ch 7, Van Voorst ch 3 (Sakai:Tests & Quizzes from 2/25 7:00 pm to 3/2 9:00 am)

3/2 Ritual Life and Observing the Law in Family and Society, Ludwig, ch. 8; 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 Mary and Have Children)

3/4 Test 1 Judaism, Ludwig chs 6, 7, & 8, Van Voorst ch 3, in-class multiple choice-true/false test.

3/9 Origins of Christianity, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 143-146; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 83-90 (Introduction), 90 (Birth of Jesus), 91 (Jesus' Miracles), 98 (Parables of Jesus), 103 (Sermon on the Mount);

3/11 Jesus's Preaching, Crucifixion, and Resurrection, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 146-150; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 92 (Arrest, Trial, and Death of Jesus), 94 (Resurrection of Jesus and Ascension of Jesus)

3/16, 18 Spring Break

3/23 Origins and Development of the Church, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 150-157; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 95 (Coming of the Holy Spirit), 111 (Twelve Apostles and Their Mission), 96 (Persecution of the Apostles), 97 (Council at Jerusalem), 117 (The Scripture Canon in Formation), 119-123 (Early Noncanonical Jesus Tradition, Gnostic Christianity and Orthodox Christianity, and Women and Gnosticism), 112-113 (*Matthew's* Church Order and Peter as the Rock), 125 (Papal Primacy), 110 (Fall of Rome)

3/25 The Reformation and the Protestant Tradition, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 157-166

Quiz 5 Ludwig ch 9, Van Voorst ch 4 (Sakai:Tests & Quizzes from 3/25 7:00 pm to 3/30 9:00 am)

3/30 Christian Ideas on Salvation, Ludwig, ch. 10, pp. 167-173; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 99 (Divine Word Became Human)

4/1 Christ as Redeemer, Ludwig, ch. 10, pp. 173-178; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 99-100 (Nicodemus Visits Jesus and A sinful Woman is Forgiven), 101 (Results of Justification), 102 (End of Time)

Quiz 6 Ludwig ch 10, Van Voorst ch 4 (Sakai:Tests & Quizzes from 4/1 7:00 pm to 4/6 9:00 am)

4/6 Ritual Practices and the Good Life, Ludwig, ch. 11; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 115-117 (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confession and Anointing), 114 (Women in the Early Church), 108 (Love), 107 (Directions concerning Marriage), 109 (Ethics in the Christian Household)

- 4/8 **Test 2 Christianity, Ludwig chs 9, 10, & 11, Van Voorst ch 4, in class multiple choice-true/false test.**
- 4/13 Origins of Islam, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 196-197; Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 129-134 (Introduction)
- 4/15 Muhammad in Mecca and the Hijrah, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 198-201; Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 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)
- 4/20 Muhammad in Medina and the Early Caliphate, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 201-207; Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 138 (The Hypocrites), 148-150 (On Unbelievers, Jews, and Christians), 140 (Death of Muhammad)
- 4/22 The Islamic World: from Medieval to Modern, Ludwig, ch 12, pp. 207-219 and ch. 14, p. 241 (section on Basic Principles of the Shari'ah); Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 167-170 (A Sunni Creed), 170-171 (A Shi'ite Creed), 171-172 (Sufi Poetry on Love for God)

Quiz 7 Ludwig ch 12, Van Voorst ch 5 (Sakai:Tests & Quizzes from 4/22 7:00 pm to 4/27 9:00 am)

- 4/27 God, Humanity, and Salvation in Islam, Ludwig, ch. 13, pp. 220-226; 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)
- 4/29 Shari'ah and Islamic Society, Ludwig, ch. 13, pp. 226-229; Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 153-158 (all readings in the section on Ethics)

Quiz 8 Ludwig ch 13, Van Voorst ch 5 (Sakai:Tests & Quizzes from 4/29 7:00 pm to 5/1 9:00 am)

- 5/1 Ritual Practices and the Good Life for Muslims, Ludwig, ch. 14; Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 158-163 (all readings in the section on Worship and Ritual)

- 5/8 (Friday, 4:00-7:00 pm) Test 3 Islam, Ludwig chs 12, 13, & 14, Van Voorst ch 5, in class multiple choice-true/false test.**