

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Summer I 2014 5/27-7/3
840:212:B1 (Hybrid Course) Religions of the Western World
In-Class Dates: 5/27, 5/29, 6/3, 6/5, 6/10, 6/17, 6/19, 6/24, 6/26, 7/1 10:20 am-12:10 pm SC-206/CAC

Instructor: Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 130/DC **Office Hours:** before or after class, or by appointment (meetings will be in Scott Hall) **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 Ancient 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, philosophy, and mysticism.

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 as a hybrid course. Much of the work, including reading, discussions, and test taking, will be done online. The limited classroom experience will be utilized to enhance online learning by evaluating the online learning process and engaging in traditional face to face conversation. The course material and work will operate through the use of Rutgers' web based interactive technology called Sakai. All students are required to know how to use Sakai. The site will contain announcements, assignments, tests and quizzes, recommended resources, chat room, discussion board, and grades, among other things. Student self-discipline and motivation to participate daily in the online sessions cannot be over emphasized. You must truly be an active learner to benefit from (and pass) 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.

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade): The in-class meetings are vital to the success of the hybrid course. Students are expected to attend each class on time and contribute to class discussions. 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 (out of 100) per unexcused absence. 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.**

2) Discussion Forums (20% of final grade): The discussion forums are an important aspect of the hybrid course in the sense of comprehending the subject matter. There are nine forums for this course. Most of the content discussion will take place in these forums. Students are therefore required to contribute to the Discussion Board on Sakai. These are meant to be open, threaded conversations about various topics related to the course. Students' posts will be graded based on their understanding of the reading assignments and the development of ideas through interaction in the forums with the professor and other students. Each forum will be graded on a range from 0-3 points.

3) Quizzes (25% 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 according to the schedule below. Once you begin the quiz, you will have a set time limit to complete it. If you submit an uncompleted quiz by mistake, you must contact me immediately. I will determine if you deserve to retake the quiz.

4) Three tests (each test is 15% of final grade): The tests will have a combination of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions related to the three major religions we are covering. 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 online/class discussions. The tests will be online through the Sakai Tests and Quizzes link. You will have a time limit of 1 hour. Should it be necessary, make up exams will be given to students having a valid excuse for not taking the online test.

Grading Policy: All final grades will be calculated according to the Rutgers' grading system. Letter grades and numerical grades on a scale of 100 to 65 will be converted to the point 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:

5/27 Mandatory In-class Meeting 1

Topic 1: Introduction to the hybrid course and Sakai
Perspectives on the Religious Path, Ludwig, ch. 1

5/27-5/29 Online Session 1

Topic 2: Beginnings of the Human Religious Adventure, Ludwig, ch. 2
Religions of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece, Ludwig, ch. 4
(Note: We are skipping Ludwig, ch. 3)

Discussion Forum 1: Ludwig, chs. 2 and 4: Opens: 5/27 1:00 pm - Closes: 5/29 8:00 am.

5/29 Mandatory In-class Meeting 2

Topic 3: Western Scriptures among the World's Religions, Van Voorst, ch. 1

5/29-6/3 Online Session 2

Topic 4: Zoroastrian Tradition, Ludwig, ch. 5, Van Voorst, ch. 2.

Discussion Forum 2: Ludwig, ch. 5, Van Voorst, ch. 2: Opens: 5/29 1:00 pm - Closes: 6/3 8:00 am.

**Quiz 1: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, chs. 1, 2, & 4: open from 5/29 1:00 pm to 6/3 8:00 am;
25 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit.**

6/3 Mandatory In-class Meeting 3

Topic 5: Overview of the Jewish Scriptural Tradition: Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 37-45 (Introduction)

Origins of Judaism until the United Kingdom, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 95-101, Van Voorst,
ch. 3, pp. 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)

**Quiz 2: Tests & Quizzes: Van Voorst, chs. 1 and 2, Ludwig, ch. 5: open from 6/3 1:00 pm to 6/5
8:00 am; 25 multiple choice and true/false questions, 45 min. time limit.**

6/3-6/5 Online Session 3

Topic 6: Decline of the Kingdoms until the Making of the Talmud, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 102-106, 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), 50 (Ezra's Enforcement of *Torah* Observance), 75-76 (Chain of
Rabbinic Tradition and Replacement of Sacrifice by Study).

Discussion Forum 3: Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 102-106, Van Voorst, ch. 3 related readings: Opens: 6/3 1:00 pm - Closes: 6/5 8:00 am.

6/5 Mandatory In-class Meeting 4

Topic 7: Further Transformations of Judaism, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 106-114, Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 78 (Why Judaism Survives under Persecution).

Jewish Worlds of Meaning, Ludwig, ch. 7, pp. 115-118, Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 51 (Oneness of God)

Quiz 3: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 95-106, Van Voorst, ch. 3 related readings: Open from 6/5 1:00 pm to 6/10 8:00 am; 1 essay question, 45 min. time limit.

6/5-6/10 Online Session 4

Topic 8: Continuation of Jewish Worlds of Meaning, Ludwig, ch. 7, pp. 118-125, Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 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).

Discussion Forum 4: Ludwig, ch. 7, pp. 118-125, Van Voorst, ch. 3 related readings: Opens: 6/5 1:00 pm - Closes: 6/10 8:00 am.

6/10 Mandatory In-class Meeting 5

Topic 9: Ritual Practices and the Good Life, 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)

Quiz 4: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 7, Van Voorst, ch. 3 related readings: Open from 6/10 1:00 pm to 6/12 11:59 pm; 1 essay question, 45 min. time limit.

Test One: Judaism: Tests & Quizzes: Open from 6/10 1:00 pm to 6/13 11:59 pm; 50 multiple choice and true/false questions, 1 hr. time limit

There is no class meeting on 6/12.

6/10-6/17 Online Session 5

Topic 10: The Rise of Christianity: Christian Scriptures and the Life of Jesus, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 143-150, Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 83-90 (Introduction), 90 (Birth of Jesus), 91 (Jesus's 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).

Discussion Forum 5: Ludwig, ch. 9, pp 143-150, Van Voorst, ch. 4 related readings: Opens: 6/10 1:00 pm - Closes: 6/17 8:00 am.

6/17 Mandatory In-class Meeting 6

Topic 11: Early Christianity from Paul to Augustine: 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 (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).

6/17-19 Online Session 6

Topic 12: The Medieval Church and the Reformation to the Modern Period, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 157-166.

Discussion Forum 6: Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 157-166, Van Voorst, ch. 4 related readings:
Opens: 6/17 1:00 pm - Closes: 6/19 8:00 am.

6/19 Mandatory In-class Meeting 7

Topic 13: Christian Worlds of Meaning, Ludwig, ch. 10, 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 (End of Time)

Quiz 5: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch 9, pp. 143-162, Van Voorst ch 4: Open from 6/19 1:00 pm to 6/24 8:00 am; 1 essay question, 45 min. time limit.

6/19-24 Online Session 7

Topic 14: 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).

Discussion Forum 7: Ludwig, ch. 11, Van Voorst, ch. 4 related readings: Opens: 6/19 1:00 pm – Closes: 6/24 8:00 am.

6/24 Mandatory In-class Meeting 8

Topic 15: Conclude discussion on Christianity

Pre-Islamic Arabia, the Origins of Islam, and Muhammad in Mecca, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 196-201, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 129-134 (Introduction), 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).

Quiz 6: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 10, Van Voorst, ch. 4: Open from 6/24 1:00 pm to 6/27 11:59 pm; 1 essay question, 45 min. time limit.

Test Two: Christianity: Tests & Quizzes: Open from 6/24 1:00 pm to 6/29 11:59 pm; 50 multiple choice and true/false questions, 1 hr. time limit.

6/24-26 Online Session 8

Topic 16: Muhammad in Medina and Early Islamic Expansion, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 201-207, 211-212, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 138 (The Hypocrites), 148-150 (On Unbelievers, Jews, and Christians), 156 (Different Dimensions of Struggle), 140 (Death of Muhammad), 167-170 (A Sunni Creed), 170-171 (A Shi'ite Creed).

Discussion Forum 8: Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 201-207, 211-212, Van Voorst, ch. 4 related readings: Opens: 6/24 1:00 pm - Closes: 6/26 8:00 am.

6/26 Mandatory In-class Meeting 9

Topic 17: Medieval Islamic World to the Present, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 207-219, ch. 14, p. 241, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 171-172 (Sufi Poetry on Love for God)

Quiz 7: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 196-207 and 211-212, Van Voorst, ch. 5, Introduction and related readings: Open from 6/26 1:00 pm to 7/1 8:00 am; 1 essay question, 45 min. time limit.

6/26-7/1 Online Session 9

Topic 18: Muslim Worlds of Meaning, Ludwig, ch. 13, 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),

Discussion Forum 9: Ludwig, ch. 13, Van Voorst, ch. 5 related readings: Opens: 6/26 1:00 pm – Closes: 7/1 8:00 am.

7/1 Mandatory In-class Meeting 10

Topic 19: Ritual Practices and the Good Life, Ludwig, ch. 14, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 158-163 (all readings in section on Worship and Ritual), 154-155 (Women).

Quiz 8: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 13, Van Voorst, ch. 5 related readings: Open from 7/1 1:00 pm to 7/3 11:59 pm; 1 essay question, 45 min. time limit.

Test Three: Islam: Tests & Quizzes: Open from 7/1 1:00 pm to 7/3 11:59 pm; 50 multiple choice and true/false questions, 1 hr. time limit.

There is no class on 7/3. All course work must be completed by 7/3 at midnight.