

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Summer I 2017 5/30-7/7
840:212:B1 (Hybrid Course) Religions of the Western World In-Class Dates: T/Th
5/30-7/7 (11 meetings; no class on 7/4) 10:30 am-12:12 pm SC-221/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.

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 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 (20% 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 relation to comprehending the subject matter. There are four forums for this course. 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. Therefore, students are encouraged to follow up on their posts by editing, correcting or adding new material. Each forum will be graded on a range from 0-5 points.

3) Tests (60% of final grade): Eight multiple choice/true-false/short essay question tests will occur on a regular basis to test the students' grasp of ideas and concepts under discussion. The tests will be made available on Sakai: Tests and Quizzes for several days according to the schedule below. Once you begin the test, you will have a set time limit to complete it. Tests must 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.

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.

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

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. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

5/30 In-class Meeting 1

Topics: Introduction to the hybrid course and Sakai
Perspectives on the Religious Path, Ludwig, ch. 1
Beginnings of the Human Religious Adventure, Ludwig, ch. 2
(Note: We are skipping Ludwig, ch. 3)

Discussion Forum 1: Ludwig, chs. 1, 2, 4, and 5, Van Voorst, chs. 1 and 2: Opens: 5/30 1:00 pm -
Closes: 6/6 10:00 am.

6/1 In-class Meeting 2

Topics: Religions of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece, Ludwig, ch. 4
Western Scriptures among the World's Religions, Van Voorst, ch. 1
Zoroastrian Tradition, Ludwig, ch. 5, Van Voorst, ch. 2

Test 1: Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, chs. 1, 2, & 4: open from 6/1 1:00 pm to 6/6 10:00 am; 30 multiple choice and true/false questions; 1 essay question, 50 min. time limit.

Test 2: Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Van Voorst, chs. 1 and 2, Ludwig, ch. 5: open from 6/1 1:00 pm to 6/6 9:00 am; 30 multiple choice and true/false questions, 1 essay question, 50 min. time limit.

6/6 In-class Meeting 3

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

Origins of Judaism until the Babylonian Exile, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 95-106, 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), 67-68 (Call to be a Prophet and Women as Judges and Prophets), 63 (God's call to an Unfaithful People).

Discussion Forum 2: Ludwig, chs. 6, 7, and 8, Van Voorst, ch. 3: Opens: 6/6 1:00 pm –
Closes: 6/15 10:00 am.

6/8 In-class Meeting 4

Topics: Further Transformations of Judaism, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 106-114, 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).

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

Test 3: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig, ch. 6, Van Voorst, ch. 3 (related reading): open from 6/8 1:00 pm to 6/15 10:00 am; 30 multiple choice and true/false questions; 1 essay question, 50 min. time limit.

6/13 In-class Meeting 5

Topics: 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).

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)

Test 4: Ludwig chs. 7 and 8: Tests & Quizzes: Open from 6/13 1:00 pm to 6/20 10:00 am; 30 multiple choice and true/false questions; 1 essay question, 50 min. time limit.

6/15 In-class Meeting 6

Topics: The Rise of Christianity: Christian Scriptures, the Life of Jesus, and the Early Christians, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 143-157, 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), 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).

Discussion Forum 3: Ludwig, chs. 9, 10 and 11, Van Voorst, ch. 4: opens: 6/15 1:00 pm – Closes: 6/27 10:00 am.

6/20 In-class Meeting 7

Topics: From Medieval Christianity to the Modern Period, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 157-166.

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)

Test 5: Ludwig, ch. 9, Van Voorst, ch. 4 (related readings): Tests & Quizzes: Open from 6/20 1:00 pm to 6/27 10:00 am; 30 multiple choice and true/false questions; 1 essay question, 50 min. time limit.

6/22 In-class Meeting 8

Topics: 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).

Test 6: Ludwig, chs. 10 and 11, Van Voorst, ch. 4 (related readings): Tests & Quizzes: Open from 6/22 1:00 pm to 6/27 10:00 am; 30 multiple choice and true/false questions; 1 essay question, 50 min. time limit.

6/27 In-class Meeting 9

Topics: Islamic Scriptures, the Life of Muhammad, and Early Islam. Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 196-204, 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), 138 (The Hypocrites), 148-150 (On Unbelievers, Jews, and Christians), 156 (Different Dimensions of Struggle), 140 (Death of Muhammad).

Discussion Forum 4: Ludwig, chs. 12, 13, and 14, Van Voorst, ch. 5: Opens: 6/27 1:00 pm – Closes: 7/7 10:00 am.

6/29 In-class Meeting 10

Topics: Medieval Period to the Present, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 204-219, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 167-170 (A Sunni Creed), 170-171 (A Shi'ite Creed), 171-172 (Sufi Poetry on Love for God).

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).

Test 7: Ludwig, ch. 12, Van Voorst, ch. 5 (related readings): Tests & Quizzes: Open from 6/29 1:00 pm to 7/7 10:00 am; 30 multiple choice and true/false questions; 1 essay question, 50 min. time limit.

7/4 no class

7/6 In-class Meeting 11

Topics: 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).

Test 8: Islam: Ludwig chs. 13 and 14, Van Voorst, ch. 5 (related readings): Tests & Quizzes: Open from 7/6 1:00 pm to 7/7 9:00 pm; 30 multiple choice and true/false questions; 1 essay question, 50 min. time limit.