

**Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Winter Session 2015**  
**840:212:01 (Hybrid Course) Religions of the Western World**  
**In-Class Dates: 12/23 9:00-12:00 pm, 1/6, 1/8, 1/13, 1/14 9:00-12:00 pm, SC 219/CAC**

**Instructor:** Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 134/DC **Office Hours:** before or after class (we can meet in the classroom), 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, 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*. Upper Saddle River, NJ:  
Pearson Education Inc., 2006.

Van Voorst, Robert E. *Anthology of World Scriptures: Western Religions*. Belmont, CA:  
Thomson Wadsworth, 2007.

**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, discussion forums, 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. This portion of the grade is worth ten per cent of the final grade. Each unexcused absence will result in a reduction of this part of the student's grade by twenty points out of 100. 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.

**Classroom Etiquette:** The use of lap tops and iPad and tablet sized devices are permitted only for purposes related to the course. All cell phones, iPods, and any other small 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. Respectful speech is required at all times, in class and in the various Sakai forums. Disputes and disagreements are expected, but vulgar and insulting language will not be tolerated. All Sakai forums will be monitored for compliance.

**2) Discussion Forums (20% of final grade):** The discussion forums are the most important aspects of the hybrid course in the sense of comprehending the subject matter. There are eight graded 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 your understanding of the reading assignments and the development of ideas through interaction in the forums with the professor and other students. You will receive up to 5 points for each forum.

**3) Quizzes (40% 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 several days according to the schedule below. Once you begin the quiz, you will have an 60 minute time limit to complete it. If you submit an uncompleted quiz by mistake, you must contact me. I will determine if you deserve to retake the quiz.

**4) Three tests (each test is 10% of final grade):** The tests will be 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. Tests will be made available for several days according to the schedule below. Once you begin the test, you will have an 80 minute time limit to complete it. 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). For the purpose of quizzes, tests, and papers, as applicable to each course, a grade of A- (90-92) will be used and is equivalent to 3.8 points. 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:**

12/23 Mandatory In-class Meeting  
Introduction to the hybrid course and Sakai  
Perspectives on the Religious Path, Ludwig, ch. 1

12/26-1/5 Online Session 1  
Beginnings of the Human Religious Adventure, Ludwig, ch. 2  
Religions of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece, Ludwig, ch. 4

**Sakai: Discussion Forum 1: Ludwig chs. 2 & 4: Opens: 12/26 6:00 am - Closes: 1/5 9:00 am. Using the discussion questions and key terms on pp. 33 & 81 as guidelines, you must engage in conversations about relevant issues related to any information from the chapters.**

**Quiz 1 Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig chs. 1, 2, & 4: open from 12/26 6:00 am to 1/5 9:00 am; 33 multiple choice/true-false questions, 1 hr. time limit.**

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

**Sakai: Discussion Forum 2: Van Voorst ch. 1: Opens: 12/26 6:00 am - Closes: 1/5 9:00 am. Using the glossary and discussion questions on pp. 19-20 as guidelines, you must engage in conversations about relevant issues related to any information from the chapters.**

Online Session 3  
Zoroastrian Tradition, Ludwig, ch. 5  
Zoroastrianism, Van Voorst, ch. 2

**Sakai: Discussion Forum 3: Ludwig ch. 5, Van Voorst ch. 2: Opens: 12/26 6:00 am - Closes: 1/5 9:00 am. Using the discussion questions and key terms or glossary in Ludwig, pp. 93-94, and in Van Voorst, pp. 34-35, as guidelines, you must engage in conversations about relevant issues related to any information from the chapters.**

**Quiz 2 Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Van Voorst chs. 1 and 2, Ludwig ch. 5: open from 12/26 9:00 am to 1/5 6:00 am; 33 multiple choice/true-false questions, 1 hr. time limit.**

Online Session 4  
History of Judaism, Ludwig, ch. 6, Van Voorst, ch. 3, 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), 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)

**Sakai: Discussion Forum 4: Ludwig ch. 6, pp. 95-99 and Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Opens: 12/26 6:00 am - Closes: 1/5 9:00 am. You must engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.**

1/6 Mandatory In-class Meeting  
God, Creation, Sin, Repentance, and Transformation, Ludwig, ch. 7, 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) 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 3 Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch. 6, Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Open from 1/6 12:00 pm to 1/10 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. time limit.**

**Quiz 4 Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch. 7, Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Open from 1/7 12:00 pm to 1/10 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. time limit.**

1/7 Online Session 5  
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)

**Sakai: Discussion Forum 5: Ludwig ch. 8, Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/6 12:00 pm - Closes: 1/10 11:59 pm. You must engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.**

**Test One Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Judaism Test: Open from 1/7 6:00 am to 1/12 11:59 pm; 50 question multiple choice/true-false test, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.**

1/8 Mandatory In-class Meeting  
Origins of Christianity, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 143-150, Van Voorst, ch. 4, 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)

1/9 Online Session 6  
The Early Church, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 150-164; 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)

**Sakai: Discussion Forum 6: Ludwig ch. 9, pp. 143-164, Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/9 6:00 am - Closes: 1/12 9:00 am. You must engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.**

**Quiz 5 Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch. 9 to p. 160, Van Voorst ch. 4 (assigned readings): Open from 1/9 6:00 am to 1/12 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. time limit.**

1/12 No online session; complete all forums, quizzes, and tests; read Ludwig chs. 10 & 11, and Van Voorst ch. 4 in preparation for next in-class meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

1/13 Mandatory In-class Meeting

Christian Ideas on Salvation and Christ as Redeemer, 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)

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)

**Quiz 6 Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch. 10, Van Voorst ch. 4 (assigned readings): Open from 1/13 12:00 pm to 1/16 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. time limit.**

**Test Two (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Christianity Test: Open from 1/13 12:00 pm to 1/16 11:59 pm; 50 question multiple choice/true-false test, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.**

1/14 Online Session 7

Origins of Islam and Biography of Muhammad, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 196-204; 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), 156 (Different Dimensions of Struggle), 140 (Death of Muhammad)

**Sakai: Discussion Forum 7: Ludwig ch. 12 pp. 196-204, Van Voorst ch. 5 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/14 6:00 am - Closes: 1/16 11:59 pm. You must engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.**

1/15 Mandatory In-class Meeting

Medieval Islamic World, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 204-219 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)

God, Humanity, and Salvation in Islam, 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)

**Quiz 7 Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Quiz 7 Ludwig ch. 12, Van Voorst ch. 5 (assigned readings): Open from 1/15 6:00 am to 1/17 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. time limit.**

**Quiz 8 Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Quiz 8 Ludwig ch. 13, Van Voorst ch. 5 (assigned readings): Open from 1/15 6:00 am to 1/17 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. time limit.**

1/16 Online Session 8

Ritual Practices and the Good Life for Muslims, Ludwig, ch. 14, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 158-163 (all reading in section on Worship and Ritual), 154-155 (Women);

**Sakai: Discussion Forum 8: Ludwig ch. 14, Van Voorst ch. 5 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/16 6:00 am - Closes: 1/17 11:59 pm. Engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.**

**Test Three Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Islam Test: Open from 1/16 6:00 am to 1/17 11:59 pm; 50 question multiple choice/true-false test, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.**

#### Forum, Quiz and Test Timeline

Forums 1-4: 12/26 6:00 am to 1/5 9:00 am

Quizzes 1-2: 12/26 6:00 am to 1/5 9:00 am

Quizzes 3-4: 1/6 12:00 pm to 1/10 11:59 pm

Forum 5: 1/6 12:00 pm to 1/10 11:59 pm

Test 1: 1/7 6:00 am to 1/12 11:59 pm

Forum 6: 1/9 6:00 am to 1/12 9:00 am

Quiz 5: 1/9 6:00 am to 1/12 11:59 pm

Quiz 6: 1/13 12:00 pm to 1/16 11:59 pm

Test 2: 1/13 12:00 pm to 1/16 11:59 pm

Forum 7: 1/14 6:00 am to 1/16 11:59 pm

Quizzes 7-8: 1/15 12:00 pm to 1/17 11:59 pm

Forum 8: 1/16 6:00 am to 1/17 11:59 pm

Test: 3: 1/16 6:00 am to 1/17 11:59 pm