

# Western Religions

## Summer 2015

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### Course Description

This course provides an overview of the three formative religions of the West: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will cover the history, literature, thought and experience of believers in each tradition. We will approach them in chronological order, with Judaism first and Islam last. Their sacred texts—the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Qu'ran—will all be presented as grounded in history and culture.

### Course Objectives

At the completion of this course the students will have developed a comprehension of what religion is in various cultural settings. Specifically, the students should be able to:

- a) demonstrate understanding of the central beliefs of major religious traditions of the West—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—including the ritual life of those communities.
- b) develop skills in observing and critically analyzing religion in historical context.
- c) appreciate the distinctive genius of each great religion studied.

### Textbook

"Living Religions" (8th ed.), by Mary Pat Fisher 2011  
(Pearson/Prentice Hall).  
ISBN: 978-0-205-83585-0.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance/Participation: 50%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Visitation Project: 25%

1. The midterm exam will be assigned essays based on the text.

2. For the religious service project, you will attend the services of both a Christian denomination-not your own, and a Reform Jewish synagogue. You will write a reaction paper base on these experiences.

#### GRADING

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=below 60.

#### Class/Reading Schedule

Friday 6/19

Introduction: defining terms

Judaism: pg. 239-297

Saturday 6/20

Judaism/Christianity

Friday 6/26

Temple Emmanuel 7:00 pm

Saturday 6/27

Christianity: pg. 298-380

July 3-4: NO CLASS

Friday 7/10

Islam: pg. 381-439

Saturday 7/11  
Islam

Students are responsible to meet all deadlines for the course unless serious and unforeseen events can be documented for the instructor.

Make copies of all material sent through the mail; the instructor is not responsible for undelivered assignments. Students will be required to resubmit any missing material. Under extreme circumstances, the grade of "Incomplete" may be assigned. The grade requires that the student make up the coursework, on their own, by the end of the following semester. To receive an "Incomplete" the student must be in good standing in the course at the time that the Incomplete is requested. If the Incomplete is not resolved by the end of the following semester, the grade will revert to "F".

#### RRCC Syllabus Disability Statement

ADAAA (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Red Rocks Community College is committed to access for students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and need assistance or are interested in requesting accommodations, please contact Accessibility Services. Faculty are not obligated to provide accommodations without proper notification by Accessibility Services and accommodations are not retroactive. Students may contact the Access staff by telephone or email to make an intake appointment at 303-914-6733 or [access@rrcc.edu](mailto:access@rrcc.edu). Accessibility Services is located in Suite 1182 at the Lakewood campus. More information is available at [www.rrcc.edu/accessibility-services](http://www.rrcc.edu/accessibility-services).