

Spring Syllabus

WELCOME!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a study of the religious dimension in the lives of individuals, communities, and cultures. Students will explore understandings of religion and roles of religion, along with commonalities and differences in expression of religion. This will be accomplished by examining topics such as God, scripture, ritual, values, ethical issues and cosmology, as expressed within several specific religious traditions, including Judaism and Christianity.

Student Learning Objectives for Religion 1000

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Discourse with nuance and objectivity on the religious dimensions that have been part of the human experience, and the implications of these dimensions for self- and community identity (Historical/Global)
2. Identify the underlying structural components of religious worldviews, and articulate how these are expressed in varying religious traditions (Methodological).
3. Articulate the interaction between religious beliefs and daily life for individuals and communities, and how such interaction can both promote and resolve conflict. (Religion and Contemp. Life/Ethics)
4. Display improved critical and analytical skills in:
 - Reaching independent conclusions based on data and independent reasoning,
 - Developing a formal, scholarly voice in public speaking and in writing
 - Using research materials and methods with greater nuance and sophistication (Skill Development)

- I encourage all to attend the Interfaith lunches in the far North Wing of the chapel, Thursdays at 11:00 AM are encouraged, but they are not mandatory.

Student Learning Evaluation/Assessment Activities

Use of internet in class as a reference tool is encouraged, as long as it is used honestly (not for social media, etc.).

Quizzes 40%

Exams 40%

Research Paper 20%

Please reserve March 15, 7:00 on your calendars now. Attendance will be mandatory at Eboo Patel's keynote address, *"Interfaith Leadership: Engaging Faith and Philosophical Diversity in the 21st Century"*

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to be aware of the College's policy regarding Academic Honesty which appears on page 10 in the Carthage College 2013-2014 Catalog and which states that

"Academic honesty is a necessary corollary to academic freedom; each concept presupposes the other. The goals and objectives of Carthage fall within the implicit context of academic honesty. Therefore, Carthage expects academic honesty from all of its members and maintains college-wide honesty guidelines and penalties that must be supported by the whole academic community. The guidelines and penalties are found in the Faculty Handbook and Students' Handbook."

Special Accommodations

Support will be arranged for students with documented disabilities including learning disabilities, attention disorders, and physical and psychological

disabilities. Students who do not have current documentation or suspect they may have a learning disability may arrange for evaluation services. Students are responsible for contacting the Center for Student Success and providing current (within three years) documentation. In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Carthage is committed to achieving equal educational opportunities and full participation for people with disabilities. The Center for Student Success is located in the Office of Student Life, in the Todd Wehr Center.

Required text for this class

Fisher, Mary Pat. Living Religions: A Brief Introduction. Tenth Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. Short texts from a variety of sources will be posted on elearner, as will homework assignments. The schedule and assignments may be altered from time to time throughout the semester, but students will be notified in advance if this occurs.

Office Hours and Outside Help

I can be reached at 262 553 1835 or by email at bmitchell1@carthage.edu. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange an appointment outside of class. All students are encouraged to use the writing center, regardless of ability.

<https://www.carthage.edu/writing-center/>