Semester at Sea, Course Syllabus  
Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Semester: Fall 2016  
Discipline: Philosophy  
Course Number and Title: Philosophy 171 Religions of the West (Section 2)  
Course Level: Lower  
Faculty Name: Dr. Melissa C. Stewart  
Semester Credit Hours: 3  
Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the three major monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We will start with the cosmological foundations of these religions with special attention given to Zoroastrianism, Gnosticism and Neoplatonism while we are traveling in the Mediterranean. We will learn the founding myths of each tradition, along with its rituals, and major beliefs. We will read about and discuss the histories and contemporary developments within each religion. We will pay attention to the diversity within these traditions using Africa as a case study. We will explore some ways these religions have changed due to modernity, postcolonialism and globalization with special attention given to Catholic identity while in South America. Finally, the course will emphasize empathetic engagement—learning from the perspective of the believing community.*

*EMPATHETIC OBJECTIVITY: the discipline of making real to yourself the inward life, the subjective reality, of the lives lived within traditions other than your own as they truly are (thereby discovering what is like yourself in the stranger) and coming to recognize and understand your own tradition objectively as one among others (thereby discovering what is strange about yourself).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Outline the most significant moments and figures in the historical development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
2. Summarize the key core beliefs and describe the dominant ritual practices of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
3. Demonstrate in writing their ability to connect their classroom understanding of religion with their field experiences of religion.
4. Identify and reflect on through writing some similarities and differences both across and within the diverse forms of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
5. Understand unfamiliar religious ideas and practices empathetically and familiar religious ideas and practices as if one were a stranger.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

(Students may select either of the first two options. The first book (*Living Religions: A Brief Introduction*) is less expensive, but contains the same written material. The second text (*Living Religions*) is more expensive and contains pictures, maps and other helpful resources not essential to the text.)

Option One:
AUTHOR: Mary Pat Fisher
TITLE: Living Religions: A Brief Introduction 2
PUBLISHER: Pearson
ISBN #: 978-0205229703
DATE/EDITION: 2011/3rd Edition

Option Two:
AUTHOR: Mary Pat Fisher
TITLE: Living Religions
PUBLISHER: Pearson
ISBN #: 9780134168975
DATE/EDITION: 2017/10th Edition

(This third text is required.)
AUTHOR: Mary Pat Fisher
TITLE: Anthology of Living Religions
PUBLISHER: Pearson
ISBN #: 978-0205246809
DATE/EDITION: 2011/3rd Edition

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Hamburg—September 10

B1—September 13:

Reading: *Living Religions* (main course textbook), Chapter 1, “Religious Responses and What is Religion?”

Gary Kessler, *Studying Religion*, Chapter 1, (only read) 1.1 “Insider’s and Outsider’s Perspectives” in Course Folder on Shipboard Web.

Topics: What is religion? What is the academic study of religion? Insiders vs. outsiders of religion.

B2—September 15:


*Living Religions*: Chapter 13, Religion in a New Era

Topics: field study/ethnographic approaches, globalization

No Classes—September 16

**B3—September 18: Ancient cosmology beliefs and their influences on Judaism, Christianity and Islam**

Readings: *Living Religions*, Special section—Zoroastrianism

*Living Religions Anthology*: special section on Zoroastrianism pp. 193-197.


Topics: Zoroastrianism, Gnosticism and Philosophical Monotheism

Piraeus—September 19-23

Suggested field sites:
- Mitropoli Cathedral (Active Church)
- Agii Apostoli Church (Archeological Site)
- Areopagus (Mars Hill)
- Byzantine and Christian Museum
- Synagogue Beth Shalom (Active Synagogue)
- The Jewish Museum of Greece
- Fethiye Mosque (Archeological Site)

**B4—September 25: Overview of Christianity**

Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 9: Central beliefs in contemporary Christianity, Sacred Practices

*Living Religions Anthology*: pp. 245-247; 249 to top 254

Topics: Overview of Christianity--central beliefs, rituals, worship, symbols

Civitavecchia - September 26-28

Suggested field sites:
Rotunda of Mosta
St. Paul’s Cathedral
St. Paul’s Church and Grotto
Catacombs of St. Paul

Livorno – September 29-30

Suggested field sites:
Basilica of Saint Mary of the Flower or the Duomo (Active Church)
Basilica of the Holy Cross (Active Church)
Basilica of San Lorenzo (Active Church)
Great Synagogue of Florence (Active Synagogue and Museum)
Muslim Cultural Center of Florence (Active Mosque and Center)
Basilica of St. Francis and Franciscan Friary (Active Church in Assisi)
Abbey of San Galgano (Architectural Site near Siena)

B5—October 2: Overview of Judaism

Reading: Living Religions, Chapter 8: Torah, Living Judaism, Sacred Practices, Holy Days

Living Religions Anthology: pp. 198-211


Topics: Overview of Judaism--central beliefs, rituals, worship, symbols

Barcelona—October 3-7
FIELD CLASS MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

3 Oct is Muharam (Islam) and Rosh Hashana (Judaism)

Suggested field sites:
- Barcelona Cathedral (Active Church)
- La Sagrada Familia (Active Church)
- La Moreneta/Monestir de Montserrat (Active Monastery)
- El Call Jewish Quarter
- Center d'Interpretacio del Call (Museum)
- Major Synagogue of Barcelona (Archeological Site)
- Israelite Community of Barcelona (Active Synagogue)
- Catalan Jewish Community (Active Synagogue)
- Catalan Islamic Cultural Center (Active Mosque)

B6—October 9: Discussion of Field Class and Overview of Islam

Reading: Living Religions, Chapter 10: The Central Teachings, The Five Pillars

Living Religions Anthology: pp. 276-287

Jean Holm with John Bowker, editors, Sacred Place, Themes in Religious Studies Series, 1994, pp. 88-114, Chapter 4, “Islam” by Clinton Bennett.

Topics: Overview of Islam—central beliefs, rituals, worship, symbols

Casablanca—October 10-14
(October 12 is Yom Kippur)

Suggested field sites:
- Hassan II Mosque (Active Mosque)
- Casablanca Cathedral (Cultural Center/Concert Hall)
- Temple Beth-El (Active Synagogue)
- Jewish Museum

B7—October 16: Overview of Indigenous African Religions

Reading: Invitation to Western Religions, edited by Jeffrey Brodd, Chapter 3
“Indigenous Religions of Africa”

Living Religions Anthology: pp.39-45

B8—October 18: Islam more in depth  
FIELD CLASS PAPER DUE

Reading: Living Religions, Chapter 10 Pre-Islamic Arabia, The Prophet Muhammad, The Qur’an and Central Teachings, The Five Pillars, Sunnis, Shi’as and Sufis

Living Religions Anthology: pp. 287-292


B9—October 20: Islam in Africa: A Case-Study in Senegal

Read: Living Religions Anthology: pp.296-300


Dakar—October 21-24

B10—October 26: Islam more in depth

Reading: Living Religions, Chapter 10: The spread of Islam, Relationships with the West, Muslim resurgence, Religion in Public Life

Living Religions Anthology: pp. 289-295; 300-313

No Classes—October 28

B11—October 29: Test on Islam

B12—October 31: Afro-Brazilian Candomble
Reading: Sheila Walker, "Everyday and Esoteric Reality in the Afro-Brazilian Candomble," History of Religions 30 #2 (Nov. 1990), 103-128.

Salvador—November 1-6

November 2 is Day of the Dead for Christians

B13—November 8: Judaism more in depth

Reading: Living Religions, Chapter 8 A History of the Jewish People—Biblical Stories, Return to Jerusalem, Rabbinic Judaism, Judaism in the Middle Ages, Kabbalah and Hasidism, Judaism and Modernity

Living Religions Anthology: Review pp. 199-209 Read pp. 212-215

B14—November 10: Judaism more in depth

Reading: Living Religions, Chapter 8 The Holocaust, Zionism and Contemporary Israel and Review: Torah, Living Judaism, Sacred Practices, Holy Days (for upcoming test)


Living Religions Anthology: pp. 215-222

No Classes—November 11

B15—November 12: Judaism in Latin America


Topics: Public and domestic religious practices, Religion, nationality, ethnicity, Diaspora

Port of Spain November 13-14
B16—November 16: Christianity more in depth

Reading: Living Religions, Chapter 9 Christianity: Historical evidence, Evidence of the Bible, The life and teachings of Jesus, The early Church, Church administration, Intellectual revival and monasticism

Living Religions Anthology: pp.235-245

B17—November 19: Test on Judaism

B18—November 21: Christianity more in depth

Reading: Living Religions, Chapter 9 Christianity: Medieval mysticism, The Protestant Reformation, The Roman Catholic Reformation, Liberal trends, The Second Vatican Council, Contemporary Trends, review for upcoming test: Central beliefs in contemporary Christianity, Sacred practices

Living Religions Anthology: pp. 252-271

Callao—November 22-36

B19—November 28: Religion and Political Life: Liberation Theology in Latin America


Topics: Liberation Theology, Base Communities, Council and Conference, The Voice of Rome

B20—November 30: Christianity and the Global South


Topics: The New Christendom; Christianity and the Global South

Guayaquil—December 1-4
B21—December 6:


B22—December 8:


Puntarenas—December 12-15

B23—December 15: Interreligious Dialogue

Reading: *Living Religions*, Chapter 13: Religion in the Twenty-first Century

Topics: Globalization, Secularism, Religious pluralism, Religion in politics, Interfaith movement, Religion and social issues, Religion and materialism, Religion and the future of humanity

B24—December 17: Field Sites Discussion Day

BRING PHOTOS TO CLASS

No Classes—December 18

B25—December 20 Exam on Christianity, Globalization and Interreligious Dialogue

San Diego—December 22

FIELD WORK

*Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.*

Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and will be developed and led by the instructor.

Field Class and Assignment

The field class for this course is scheduled on Monday, 3 October in Barcelona, Spain.
A Monastery in the Mountains, the Cathedral of Barcelona, Sant Pau Del Camp and an Ancient Synagogue

Objectives: The purpose of the visit is to see how religious experience is enhanced by the intentionally created space, and the natural setting of the place where religion is practiced. Students will first travel by bus (about an hour) to Montserrat outside of Barcelona in the mountains. Started as a hermitage in the 11th century, Montserrat became a place of miracles and pilgrimage. Students will get to witness pilgrims coming to see the Moranaeta, or little black Virgin, and to experience the beauty of the rugged mountains. After lunch, we will return to Barcelona and visit Barcelona Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia. The construction of this cathedral began in the 11th century; it is one of the finest pieces of Gothic architecture in Barcelona. We will also walk through Sant Pau Del Camp, a Romanesque Cathedral in the Old City that has some remaining Moorish/Islamic influences visible in the arches of the Cathedral. After a stop at the Ancient Synagogue in the Jewish quarter, we will return to the ship. The field lab will give students the opportunities to explore how the various concepts of God that we have studied in the course manifest themselves in the material aspects of worship, and what impact the interaction of architecture and natural beauty might have upon religious experience.

Objectives:

1. For students to learn more about the history of the Catholic Church in Spain.
2. For students to learn more about Judaism and Islam in Spain.
3. For students to experience the architecture of La Sea, and to reflect upon how this intentionally designed space manifests the attributes of the deity in this religious tradition.
4. For students to witness people on a pilgrimage, and to understand the function of pilgrimage, as well as the meaning that being in the presence of a sacred object has for pilgrims.

Field Class Report (20%): Students will write a 4-page (not 3, not 5) Field Class paper that: (1) describes in detail 2 or more distinct observed elements of the site visit (such as particular rituals, beliefs, historical aspects, architecture, etc. of the religion), (2) offers a reflection on the different meanings of these elements for the religious practitioner and for the student, (3) illustrates in some detail (with ample citations from course texts) how the experience of or encounter with these 2 or more elements enriched the student’s understanding of some class reading or lecture, (4) explains the way history, belief, and practice are interrelated through these observed elements, and (5) reflects on some observed similarities and differences both across and within the diverse forms of Judaism and Christianity. IF ALLOWED, PLEASE INCLUDE PHOTOS OF YOUR ELEMENTS.

Independent Field Assignments 20% (10% each, two double-spaced pages of written text each, photos can take up additional space)

Journal Reflections on site visits—Please plan on either attending a worship service or taking a guided tour at 2 of the following 3: a synagogue, a church, a mosque—one of your two must be a Muslim religious site since our field program focuses on Jewish and Christian sites (and these sites cannot count our class field lab day). Choose two sites (not including
our field lab) from those listed in each of our ports on the syllabus or in the port descriptions of the SAS website under field programs. Your entry should include your thoughts on how the space communicates the beliefs of this religion. How does it help its visitors’ experience/understanding of the religion? What symbols – either architectural or artistic are present and what do they tell you? Your entry should describe in detail 1 distinct observed element of the site visit (such as a particular ritual, historical aspect, representation of a scripture, piece of art, symbol, architecture, etc. of the religion), what this element means for the religious practitioner and for the student, how this experience of or encounter with this element enriched the student’s understanding of some class reading or lecture.

Please document your visits. (Make sure photos are permissible. You can consult the relevant chapter in How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook found in the Ship’s library for more details regarding visiting worship sites and services.) Think of your journal as a travel blog that focuses on the religious life of the people you will encounter on your travels. Pictures of almost anything (the building, posters, tickets, etc.) will contribute to your “blog.”

Please complete the visit and journal entry for Islam by day 9 of class and bring with you to class. Please complete the visit and journal entry for Judaism (if you choose a Jewish element) by day 16 of class and bring with you to class. Please complete the visit and journal entry for Christianity (if you choose a Christian element) by day 23 of class and bring with you to class.

Other Course Notes:

Tests are only rescheduled in the event of an emergency, and only if the professor is notified BEFORE the test.

Faith Issues: While this course makes no presuppositions about your faith-perspectives, it does insist that the variety of confessional stances be respected. You are not asked to ‘believe’ all materials presented, but you are expected to know the theories and to be able to engage them critically.

Inclusive Language: It is standard practice in academia to use language that does not exclude women. Therefore, please use words like “humankind” instead of “mankind;” “he and she” instead of “he;” etc. Not only is this language inclusive, it is also more precise.

Student Conduct Code: The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one’s own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected
by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.”

You are allowed, even encouraged, to form study groups. However, all work turned in (papers, quizzes, exams) MUST be your own work. College rules on plagiarism will apply to all of your written work, and any violation is a serious offense. Plagiarism includes copying another student’s work in any capacity; and copying an author’s work without proper citation. This latter category includes directly quoting a work without reference, and inappropriately paraphrasing (simply changing a few words rather than presenting the thoughts of the author in your own words). Please consult the College Handbook and the instructor if you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism. Ignorance of the rules is no excuse. For the first offense, you will receive a zero for that assignment. Any second offense will be reported to the authorities, a letter will go into your permanent file, and you will fail the course. No exceptions.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE**

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Satisfactory/Poor</th>
<th>Failing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100%: A+</td>
<td>87-89%: B+</td>
<td>77-79%: C+</td>
<td>Less than 60%: F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-96%: A</td>
<td>84-86%: B</td>
<td>70-76%: C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%: A-</td>
<td>80-83%: B-</td>
<td>60-69%: D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**15% Class participation, pop reading quizzes, reading questions and attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory. There will be unannounced quizzes on the readings. Your quiz and class participation grade will suffer if you have more than three absences this semester. Your overall average drops 1% for every absence after 3. But attendance is more than simply showing up. It also includes being prepared and actively engaging the material, your classmates, and the instructor. Attendance does not count toward the %15 but has negative consequences if you have too many absences.
You are expected to come to class prepared and to actively participate in every class session. This means, in part, that you will have read and thought about the assigned readings.

A. = attending class, having read the assignments, and actively engaging voluntarily in class discussions at least every other class (on average) with reference to the readings or travel experiences
B. = attending class, and having read the assignments, but rarely engaging voluntarily in class discussions
C. = attending class and engaging in class discussions, but not demonstrating familiarity with the content of the reading
D. = attending class, but rarely or never participating in class discussion

45% Tests: There will be a 50-minute test after we complete each religious tradition:
15% EXAM ON JUDAISM
15% EXAM ON CHRISTIANITY
15% EXAM ON ISLAM

40 % TOTAL FOR FIELD WORK PAPER DUE B-8
Field Class and Assignment 20%
Independent Field Assignments 20% (10% each, three double-spaced pages each)

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes is mandatory, but it is at the instructor’s discretion to assign a grade to the participation and attendance requirement. (See above.) Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor’s supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A memo from the student’s home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations pre-voyage as soon as possible, but no later than July 19, 2016 to academic@isevoyages.org.
RESERVE BOOKS AND FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: Stuart M. Maitlins & Arthur J. Magida

TITLE: How to be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook

PUBLISHER: Skylight Paths

ISBN #: 978-1594735936


AUTHOR: Mary Pat Fisher
TITLE: Living Religions: A Brief Introduction 2
PUBLISHER: Pearson
ISBN #: 978-0205229703
DATE/EDITION: 2011/3rd Edition

AUTHOR: Mary Pat Fisher
TITLE: Living Religions
PUBLISHER: Pearson
ISBN #: 978-0205956401
DATE/EDITION: 2013/9th Edition

AUTHOR: Mary Pat Fisher
TITLE: Anthology of Living Religions
PUBLISHER: Pearson
ISBN #: 978-0205246809
DATE/EDITION: 2011/3rd Edition

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Gerry Tierney

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Becoming a Participant Observer”

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Doing Cultural Anthropology: Projects for Ethnographic Data Collection

VOLUME:

DATE:

PAGES: 9-17

AUTHOR: John L. Esposito
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Globalization: World Religions in Everyone’s Hometown"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: World Religions Today
VOLUME:
DATE: 2002
PAGES: 3-35.

AUTHOR: Gary Kessler

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Chapter 1 “Thinking about Religion”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Studying Religion
VOLUME: 3rd edition
DATE: 2008
PAGES:

AUTHOR: Jeffrey Brodd, Editor

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Chapter 3 “Indigenous Religions of Africa”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Invitation to Western Religions
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:

AUTHOR: Jean-Pierre Vernant

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Greek Man”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
VOLUME: 47
DATE: May, 1994
AUTHOR: Jacob Biber, editor
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Introduction and chapter 2
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: A Triumph of the Spirit: Ten Stories of Holocaust Survivors
VOLUME:
PAGES: 7-29

AUTHOR: Jean Holm with John Bowker, editors
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Chapter 4, “Islam” by Clinton Bennett.
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Sacred Place, Themes in Religious Studies Series
VOLUME:
DATE: 1994
PAGES: 88-114

AUTHOR: James F. White
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The Spatial Setting"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The Oxford History of Christian Worship
DATE: 2005
PAGES: 793-816

AUTHOR: Abraham Joshua Heschel
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Prologue and Chapter 1 “A Palace in Time”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The Sabbath
VOLUME:
DATE: 1951
PAGES: pp. 3-24

AUTHOR: Sheila Walker
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Everyday and Esoteric Reality in the Afro-Brazilian Candomble,"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: History of Religions 30 #2

VOLUME:
DATE: (Nov. 1990)
PAGES: 103-128

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
AUTHOR: Joseph Hill
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “All Women are Guides: Sufi Leadership and Womanhood among Taalibe Baay in Senegal”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Journal of Religion in Africa,
VOLUME: 40, Fasc. 4 (2010)
DATE: 2010
PAGES: 375-412

AUTHOR: Mamadou Diouf
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Chapter 1 Introduction: “The Public Role of the “Good Islam”: Sufi Islam and the Administration of Pluralism”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Tolerance, Democracy, and Sufis in Senegal, Mamadou Diouf, ed.,
VOLUME:
DATE: 2013
PAGES: 1-35

AUTHOR: Philip Jenkins, “The Next Christianity” in The Atlantic, 2002
Luis N. Rivera-Pagan

Chapter 11 “Pentecostal Transformation in Latin America”

Denis R. Janz, editor, A People’s History of Christianity

2014

237-258

Roland Flamini

“POPE FRANCIS: Resurrecting Catholicism’s Image?”

World Affairs

Vol. 176, No. 3

(September / October 2013)

25-33

John Lynch

Chapter 12 “Between Liberation and Tradition,”

New Worlds: A Religious History of Latin America

344-366
AUTHOR: J. Lesser and R. Rein

CHAPTER: “New Approaches to Ethnicity and Diaspora in 20th Century Latin America,”

BOOK: Rethinking Jewish Latin Americans, University of New Mexico Press


PAGES: pp 23-40