HISTORY 100 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

World Religions

Instructor & Office: Rick Rogers (701-H Pray-Harrold)
Sections: MWF 9:00-9:50 & 2:00-2:50 in 213 Pray-Harrold
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-10:50, 1:00-1:50, and W 5:00-5:30
Phones: (734) 487-3067 (office) & (734) 546-5557 (cell)
E-mail: RRogers@emich.edu
Home Page: http://people.emich.edu/rrogers/

Description:
This General Education course is an introduction to the academic discipline of Religious Studies. Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary field that draws on approaches from both the humanities and the social sciences. Because this course focuses primarily on the questions and methods of the humanities, it counts toward the Knowledge of the Disciplines requirement in the humanities area. Students in this class will develop their ability to interpret religious texts and other religious expressions, to analyze religious ideas about human existence and the nature of the world, and to understand religions as historical traditions characterized by conflict and change. In this lecture-oriented section of History 100, with a significant online component, students will achieve these objectives through a multimedia survey of five major religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Almost 75% of the world’s nearly six billion population identify with these traditions. This course is designed primarily to broaden the perspective of beginning college students and to develop critical thinkers who can refute unwarranted stereotypes. During this course students will read and discuss a large variety of primary and secondary source materials. Furthermore, the five lecture series will include literally hundreds of images, sacred chants and religious music, and clips from recent documentaries and feature-length movies. The slides printed in the Notebook provide a mere outline for taking notes on the many Keynote slides viewed during the course.

Texts:

Online Course Components:
In addition to Eres, some assignments and all grades will be accessed via an EMU-Online account. Also a course web site is available on this account. An additional URL will access Lecture-review Podcasts. Competence with the My.Emich account (e-mail) is required.

Assessments:
Final grades are based on five exams (15% each & 75% collectively), ten reaction papers (20%) and a final essay (5%). Students in the Honors Program may apply for an honor’s credit project. Also, Supplemental Instruction is available for all students.
Course Schedule:

9/5  Orientation
- Presentation on Course Syllabus & Web Site
- YouTube.com Clip: “Introducing the Book”

9/7-10  Introduction to the Study of Religion
- Skim Bowker 6-9 & 208-210
- Read & Take Notes On ERes Article:
  - Religious Responses by Mary Pat Fisher (1)
- Explore the following General Web Sites:
  - Harvard Pluralism Project
  - Religion & Ethics News Weekly
  - Beliefnet & Virtual Religion
- Review Web Site’s Introduction Images
- Take Online Practice Test (Optional & posted late afternoon of 9/10)

9/12-9/24  Hinduism Lecture Series
- Skim Bowker 20-43
- Explore the following Hinduism Web Sites:
  - Ann Arbor Chinmaya Mission
  - Hindu Links (123)
  - Gandhi Homepage
- Copy Web Site’s Hinduism Images

9/12  Origins of Hinduism & Caste System
- Read & Take Notes On ERes Articles:
  - Untouchability by Mahatma Gandhi (2)

9/14  Foundational & Epic Scriptures
- Hymn on Creation from the Rig Veda (3)
- Realize the Brahman from the Upanishads (4)
- Rama, Sita, & Lakshman Enter the Forest from the Ramayana (5)

9/17  Bhagavad Gita & Popular Scriptures
- I am the Beginning and the End from the Bhagavad Gita (6)
- The Way of Devotion from the Bhagavad Purana (7)

9/19  Elite Yogas & Bhakti
- Desire to Know the Brahman by Sankara (8)
- Without Krishna I Cannot Sleep by Mirabai (9)
- The Blind Men & the Elephant, Indian Parable (10)

9/21  Indian Cults & Heterodox Religions
- Vision of the Mother by Paramahansa Yogananda (11)
- Mahavir’s Stoicism from the Acaranga Sutra (12)
- Guru Nanak at Mecca by Jogendra Singh (13)

9/24  Holy Men & Holy Days
- The Secular Face of Hinduism by Joseph Vellaringatt (14)
- I am But a Seeker After Truth by Mahatma Gandhi (15)

9/26 (W)  First Exam: Hinduism
9/28-10/10  Buddhism Lecture Series
   • Skim Bowker 60-81
   • Explore the following Buddhism Web Sites:
     ○ Ann Arbor’s Jewel Heart & Zen Temple
     ○ Killing the Buddha
     ○ Dalai Lama Homepage
   • Copy Web Site’s Buddhism Images
9/28  Legends of Siddhartha Gautama
   • Read & Take Notes On ERes Articles:
     ○ Defeat of Mara & Enlightenment by Asvaghosha (16)
10/1  The Four Noble Truths
     ○ Turning the Wheel of Doctrine Sutra by Siddhartha (17)
10/3  Buddhist Teachings & Practices
     ○ Excerpts from Buddhist Scriptures by Edward Conze (18)
10/5  Theravada & Mahayana Branches
     ○ Excerpts from the Dhammapada (19)
     ○ The Heart Sutra (20)
     ○ The Bodhisattva’s Vows of Universal Love by Shantideva (21)
10/8  Vajrayana Buddhism & Tibet
     ○ Excerpts from Freedom in Exile by the Dalai Lama (22)
     ○ Love, Kindness, & Universal Responsibility by the Dalai Lama (23)
10/10  Zen Buddhism & Shunyata
     ○ Discovering Universal Emptiness by Dogen (24)
     ○ Zen & Koans by Daisetz T. Suzuki (25)
     ○ Precepts for an Engaged Buddhism by Thich Nhat Hanh (26)
10/12 (F)  Second Exam: Buddhism
10/15-10/26  Judaism Lecture Series
   • Skim Bowker 124-147
   • Explore the following Judaism Web Sites:
     ○ Ask Moses.com
     ○ Judaism & Jewish Resources
     ○ Holocaust: The Nizkor Project
   • Copy Web Site’s Judaism Images
10/15  Historical Criticism & the Tanakh
   • Read & Take Notes On ERes Articles:
     ○ In the Beginning (Genesis 1:1-2:4, 2:4-3:24), (27)
10/17  Legends: Abraham, Moses & David
     ○ The Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17:1-8), (28)
     ○ The Davidic Covenant (II Samuel 7:8-16), (30)
10/19  From Civil War to Diaspora
     ○ The Prophecies of Isaiah (1:1-20, 9:1-2, 5-6), (31)
     ○ Qumran Community Rule (32)
10/22  Legal & Mystical Traditions
- Excerpts from *The Essential Talmud* by Adin Steinsaltz (33)
- *Thirteen Principles of Faith* by Maimonides (34)
- *From Strength to Strength* by Baal Shem Tov (35)

10/24  Shoah & Zionism
- *The Holocaust* by Leo Trepp (36)

10/26  Denominations & Rituals
- Declaration of Principles from the “Pittsburg Platform” (37)
- *Ten Commitments, Not Commandments* by Michael Lerner (38)

10/29 (M)  Third Exam: Judaism

10/31-11/16  Christianity Lecture Series
- Skim Bowker 150-173
- Explore the following Christianity Web Sites:
  - The Jesus Seminar
  - The Hall of Church History
  - Catholic Information Center
- Copy Web Site’s Christianity Images

10/31  The Future of Christianity & The Christian Bible
- Read & Take Notes On ERes Articles:
  - *The Next Christendom* by Philip Jenkins (39)

11/2  Historical Criticism & The Gospels
- Infancy Narratives (Excerpts from Matthew 2 & Luke 2), (40)

11/5  The Teachings & Execution of Jesus
- Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), (41)
- Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-27), (42)
- Crucifixion & Resurrection (Excerpts from Mark 15 & 16), (43)

11/7  From Paul to Constantine
- Paul’s Conversion (Acts 9:1-9, 17-20), (44)
- Excerpts from Paul’s Epistles (45)
- The Formation of the Canon by Athanasius (46)
- The Nicene Creed (47)

11/9  Schisms & Crusades
- Excerpts from The Confessions by Augustine of Hippo (48)
- Sermon at the Council of Clermont by Urban II (49)

11/12  Mystics, Scholastics & Reformers
- Excerpts from On Watchfulness & Holiness by Hesychius of Sinai (50)
- Argument for the Existence of God by Anselm of Canterbury (51)
- Faith Can Rule Only in the Inward Man by Martin Luther (52)

11/14  The Catholic Reformation & Protestantism
- “Another Man” at Manresa by Bruce Shelley (53)

11/16  Sacraments, Holy Days & American Movements
- Why Can’t We Talk about Religion & Politics? by Jim Wallis (54)
- The Rise of the Megachurch from The Week Magazine (55)

11/19 (M)  Fourth Exam: Christianity
11/21 & 23  Thanksgiving Recess (No Classes)

11/26-12/10  Islam Lecture Series
- Skim Bowker 176-195
- Explore the following Islam Web Sites:
  - IslamiCity
  - Ummah
  - Asma Gull Hasan
- Copy Web Site’s Islam Images

11/26  Muhammad in Mecca: Founding Visions
- Read & Take Notes On ERes Articles:
  - *The Beginning of Muhammad’s Revelation* from *Sahih Muslim* (56)
  - *The Night Journey* from *Sahih Muslim* (57)

11/28  Muhammad in Medina: Quran & Ummah
- *Muhammad, Prophet of God* by John Esposito (58)
- Excerpts from the *Quran* (1 & 5), (59)

11/30  Schism, Imperialism & Hadith
- Excerpts from *Sahih Muslim* (60)
- Excerpts from *Sahih al-Bukhari* (61)

12/3  Sufi Mysticism
- Excerpts from *The Collected Sayings* by Rabiah (62)
- Excerpts from *Delivery from Error* by al-Ghazali (63)
- Excerpts from *Mathnawi & Diwan* by Rumi (64)

12/5  Five Pillars of Islam
- Excerpts from the *Quran* (2), (65)
- *How to Perform Salat* from the *Sahih Muslim* (66)
- *Hajj: Asceticism & Social Leveling* by Maulana Muhammad Ali (67)

12/7  Jihad & Nation of Islam
- Excerpts from the *Quran* (4), (68)
- *God in a World of Christians & Muslims* by Martin Forward (69)

12/10  Status of Women in Islam
- Excerpts from the *Quran* (4), (70)
- *Islamic Dress* by Yvonne Ysbeck Haddad (71)
- *Rights of Women: Ideal Versus Practice* by Riffat Hassan (72)

12/12  The Future of Religion After 9/11
- Read & Take Notes On ERes Article:
  - *A Final Examination* by Huston Smith (73)
  - *On Clash, Morality & Renaissance* by Judea Pearl (74)
  - *The Fellowship of Dialogue* by James Wolfensohn (75)
  - *Risking Hospitality* by Martin Marty (76)
- Explore the following General Web Sites:
  - Religious Tolerance
  - Urban Legends
- Prepare Final Essay (Posted 12/12 after 9:00 p.m.)

12/14 (F)  Fifth Exam: Islam (2:00)
12/17 (M)  Fifth Exam: Islam (9:00)
Many clips from the documentary series *Religions of the World* (narrated by Ben Kingsly) will be viewed in class. Also, brief clips from the following feature-length movies may be screened: *Bagger Vance, A Little Princess, Gandhi, Little Buddha, Gun Shy, Kundun, Mel Brook’s History of the World Part 1, The Chosen, Fiddler on the Roof, Life of Brian, The Passion of the Christ, Kingdom of Heaven, Luther, The Message, Lawrence of Arabia* and *Malcolm X*.

Students will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to access Electronic Reserves (Eres). Each section’s readings will be available for the assigned days on Eres. New readings will be posted and old ones removed after each section’s lectures are completed. Students should read and take notes on these readings for the day assigned. Students should study them well in order to get the full benefit of the course and do their best work on each exam.

The above e-mail will also provide instructions on how to access the EMU-Online account (emuonline.edu). Assigned Reaction Paper Forms and all grades are distributed directly to students via this account. Technical support/assistance is not the instructor’s responsibility. If a student needs help, they are to utilize one of the following:

- Email: [www.emuhelpdesk.com](http://www.emuhelpdesk.com) or [help@emuhelpdesk.net](mailto:help@emuhelpdesk.net)
- Phone: (734) 487.0307

This course has its own web site ([http://people.emich.edu/rrogers/compare.html](http://people.emich.edu/rrogers/compare.html)), which is available automatically on a student’s EMU-Online account, but also can be accessed through either the Home Page URL above (by clicking on any History 100 link on the instructor’s schedule) or the web site’s own URL typed accurately into a browser address bar. Students will discover on this web site the Course Syllabus (for additional hard copies), a Bibliography (with book icons linked to Amazon.com reviews), some of the best links to Online Research of religion, which students are expected to review throughout the course as part of their assignments (the most important of which are listed in each section above), LousyWriter.com, a website that students should access regularly to improve their writing skill, and special YouTub.com movie clips, enhancing each section’s discussions. Furthermore, there is an Adobe Acrobat file on this web site that must be consulted, labeled **Exam Images**, where students will be able to review and make copies of the key images seen in class (those that could appear on the exams for identification). This web site can be saved on each student’s “Favorites” or “Bookmarks” browser list to be used throughout the course and their EMU career.

In addition to information on how to access Eres and EMU-Online, the e-mail mentioned above will provide instructions on how to subscribe to the free Lecture-review Podcasts. These are designed to help students assess the key points of the previous lecture (new editions available shortly after each lecture & downloadable).

**All exams count and there are no re-takes!** Based primarily on the lectures and secondarily on the readings, each exam poses matching, multiple choice, and true & false questions, and some image identifications. The final exam includes an online component. Scores will be posted online. The exams are tools of assessment only and are not intended for pedagogical review. Therefore, the exams will not be returned. However, if they wish to do so, students are permitted to see their exams in the instructor’s office up to one week after taking them and before disposal.
Make-up Essay Exams: If a student cannot take one of their regular exams at the assigned time, they must tell the instructor well in advance (or in the case of illness, on the day of the exam). In order to take the make-up essay exam, a student must bring a note from either a physician, clergyperson, coach, instructor, academic advisor, or residence director, explaining the reason for the absence. The make-up essay exam will be taken under supervision in the H&P offices (701 Pray-Harrold) and should be completed within 50 minutes. If more than one assigned exam is missed, students will be asked to consider dropping the course and retaking it during a semester when their circumstances improve or greater commitment can be demonstrated.

Every Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. on the PBS station WTVS (56 Detroit & 6 on cable in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Brighton, Saline, Van Buren, Canton & Adelphia), students have access to a religious news program called “Religion & Ethics News Weekly.” Also, students can access program podcasts on the Course Web Site or at http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics. During each of the 14 weeks of this course, students are encouraged to take notes and reflect on the stories presented on this program, whether watching it on TV or listening to the online podcasts. Also, a student may record the program using their VCR or Tivo for later viewing. Students are required to write 10 reaction papers to the following programs: 9/9, 9/16, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 11/4, 11/11, 12/2 & 12/9. These particular programs will avoid any interference with exam preparations and Thanksgiving recess. All of these papers are to be returned online with a post-deadline no later than 11:59 p.m. the following Monday. The online form for each of these one-page papers will ask students not only to chronicle each of the stories they have seen and/or heard, but also to think critically about them. All papers will be scored Credit or No Credit. Poor effort or failure to do this assignment (or sent after the deadline) will result in a score of No Credit. The only papers to be returned are those that receive No Credit for poor effort. A student should send in their form well in advance of the deadline given the possibility of posting problems. Ten credits will earn a grade of A+ for 20% of the total course grade (9 credits = A, 8 = B, 7 = C, 6 = D & less than 6 = E).

The Final Essay will consist of each student’s reflections on what they have learned this semester. It will also include analyses of religious pluralism and dialogue, and of the future of religion. This online essay must be posted by 12/13 (Thursday) and no later than 11:59 p.m.

The honor’s credit project must be arranged during the first week of the course and will consist of five visitation reports (see the instructor & written description).

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a free academic support program that provides two to three fifty-minute group study sessions every week. SI sessions help students understand how to learn, as well as what to learn. These sessions are led by a student leader trained to facilitate them, who has successfully completed the course and been recommended by the professor. The SI sessions focus on the specific needs of the students involved. During these sessions, the SI leader will review the course content, and present effective skills such as time management, note taking, test preparation and test taking strategies. The benefits of Supplemental Instruction include:

- Proactive and participatory study sessions
- Efficient use of study time
- Potential to earn higher grades
- Opportunity to improve academic skills