**HUMI 9 – Comparative Religion**

**De Anza College** – **Spring ‘18** -- 4 units

**Instructor:** Lori Bhumi Clinchard, Ph.D.; clinchardlori@deanza.edu

**Office Hours:**  F2 building; M/T/W/Th: 12:30-1:20

**Student Resources:** <http://deanza.edu/socialsciences/equity/resources/> **Check these out!**

**Course Description:**

This course examines the religious dimension of human life and experience, focusing on the religious language, attitudes, images, myths, metaphors, symbols, and rituals relating to the history and practice of religion. We will study how women and men throughout history and across cultures have lived and expressed a religious faith based on their sense of the sacred.

**Student Learning Outcome Statements (SLO’s)**

* **Student Learning Outcome**: Students synthesize their critical thinking, imaginative, cooperative, and empathetic abilities as whole persons in order to contextualize knowledge, interpret and communicate meaning, and cultivate their capacity for personal, as well as social change.
* **Student Learning Outcome**: Students will facilitate understanding between persons of various religious traditions.
* **Student Learning Outcome**: Students will critique the complexities within each religious tradition in order to engage others in meaningful dialogue regarding values and controversies

**Course Objectives:**

The student will be able to:

* Compare and contrast the variety of ways in which the religious dimension of human existence is expressed and lived from pre-modern times through the present;
* Examine, analyze, and compare different types of religious consciousness;
* Examine, analyze, and compare religious faiths from several cultures and time periods;
* Identify and evaluate similar modern and contemporary patterns in different religions;
* Open and expand both mind and heart to the diversity that exists among human beings.

**Required Reading:**

Walsh, Roger. (1999). **Essential Spirituality: Exercises from the world’s religions to cultivate kindness, love, joy, peace, vision, wisdom, and generosity.** New York: John Wiley & Sons, Ince. ISBN: 978-0-471-39216-3

***Extra credit options:***

* 1. Visit a place of worship (temple, gurdwara, mosque, church, synagogue, Zen garden, etc.). Write a 2 page response paper (double-spaced, 12 font, typed); attach some physical evidence of your visit. Consider pairing up for these visits. **- 20 points**
  2. **Office visit** – stop by my office for a short visit and to share your ideas or experience of religion! **– 5 pts.**

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| **Course Requirements - Short Description:**   * Come to class everyday – short writing activity each day * Short quizzes on Monday mornings * Read *Essential Spirituality* chapters; Do the practice exercises * Write a weekly reflection paper (based on your experiences with the practices) * Final Project and Paper * No tests, midterms, or final exam | |
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**Course Requirements:**

1. ***Monday morning quizzes:*** Each Monday morning, during the first 10 minutes of class, there will be a short quiz on the reading assignment for that week. You’ll need to have read the chapters and be able to describe the author’s main ideas along with important examples. One make-up quiz will be allowed during office hours. **(15 points each) Graded for accuracy and thoughtfulness.**
2. ***Daily writing responses:*** At the end of each Tue/Wed/Thurs, you will respond to one or more questions about that day’s in-class material. Make-ups allowed only in special circumstances. **(5 points per day) Graded for thoroughness and thoughtfulness. *\*Note***: only 30 of the 33 possible days will be counted. This is a way of building in the option to miss 3 days with no loss in points.

***Weekly Reflection Paper:*** You will write a 3+ page reflection paper each week, due online (Canvas) every Thursday night (midnight). In each weekly paper (double-spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman), you will reflect on your work with that week’s practice. You may turn in 1 late paper, for full credit, if it is turned in within 1 week (include note at the top). **(50 points each) Graded for thoroughness of descriptions and thoughtfulness of reflection and analysis.**

Your paper should include:

* 1. the important ideas, as you understand them, of the assigned chapters;
  2. a detailed description of your experiences doing each exercise; and
  3. a concluding analysis, and reflection on the Spiritual Practice.

1. ***Final project:*** Interview 2 to 3 people of different religions (not your own, if you have one). Describe what you learned about each person’s experience, and also what you learned as a whole - about spirituality, religion, human nature, family, tradition, yourself, etc. - through these interviews. Include a reflection on the listening session process itself, and an analysis of how this assignment fit into your overall learning for the course. Written report should be at least 5 full pages (typed, 12 font, double-spaced, normal margins). Due the day of the scheduled final exam for this class (although there is NO final exam). **(100 points) Graded for thoroughness, thoughtfulness, and depth of analysis and reflection.**

**Grading: Total points possible = 900 pts.**

***Monday morning quizzes -*** 10 weeks x 15 pts = 150 points

***Daily writing responses*** = 30 x 5 pts. = 150 points

***Weekly Reflection Paper*** = 10 papers x 50 pts. each = 500 points

***Final Project/Paper*** = 100 points

**Grading Scale**

A-=90%; A=93%; A+=98% / B-=80%; B=83%; B+=88% / C=70%; C+=78%  
D-=60%; D=63%; D+=68% / F=<60%

**Absences**: You may miss 3 classes in the quarter. Any absences beyond 3 need to be discussed with instructor during office hours. You *may* be dropped after 4 absences. You are responsible for material covered in class while you are absent.

**COURSE OUTLINE –**

**Week of April 9th – Spirituality, Religion, Agnosticism & Atheism**

Read Walsh: Chs. 1-4

T/WTh: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thursday: practice quiz

**Week of April 16th – Indigenous Spirituality**

Read Walsh – Chs. 5-6 (Practice 1: Transform your Motivation)

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/W/Th: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of April 23rd – Hinduism & Sikhism**

Read Walsh – Chs. 7-9 (Practice 1: Transform your Motivation, cont.)

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/W/Th: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of April 30th – Buddhism**

Read Walsh – Chs. 10-12 (Practice 2: Cultivate Emotional Wisdom)

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/W/Th: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of May 7th – Confucianism & Taoism**

Read Walsh – Chs. 13-14 (Practice 2: Cultivate Emotional Wisdom, cont.)

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/W/Th: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of May 14th – Judaism**

Read Walsh – Chs. 15-18 (Practice 3: Live Ethically)

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/W/Th: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Journal check in class; Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of May 21st – Christianity** (Practice 3: Live Ethically, cont.)

Read Walsh – Chs. 19-21

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/W/Th: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of May 28th – Islam**

Read Walsh – Chs. 22-23 (Practice 4: Concentrate & Calm your Mind)

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/W/Th: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of June 4th – Meditation**

Read Walsh – Chs. 24-26 (Practice 5: Awaken your Spiritual Vision)

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/W/Th: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of June 11th – Consciousness** (Practice 6: Cultivate Spiritual Intelligence)

Read Walsh – Chs. 27-30

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/WTh: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of June 18th – Compassionate Listening** (Practice 7: Express Spirit in Action)

Read Walsh – Chs. 31-35

Mon: 10 min. quiz on the chapter at the start of class (don’t be late!)

T/WTh: 5 min. writing at end of class

Thurs: Reflection Paper due on Canvas

**Week of June 25th – Finals week**

Final project paper due online; check De Anza Final Exam schedule for due date/time

**Honors Option:**

An Honors cohort is being offered in this section.  Eligibility requirements can be found at [www.deanza.edu/honors](http://www.deanza.edu/honors). If you are interested, please contact Mehrdad Khosravi, Honors Program Coordinator at [dahonors@fhda.edu](mailto:dahonors@fhda.edu) or at 408-864-8833 for approval. The cohort entails additional work**: an informal research paper on an agreed-upon topic.** You must commit to participating in the Honors cohort by the end of the first week of the quarter by dropping the current section of this course and adding the Honors section with a separate add code. You must also sign a written contract with me. Once you commit to the Honors portion, you will be expected to complete the extra work.  Failure to complete the Honors work will result in a lowering of your class grade by 2/3 of a grade (ex: A- to B; B+ to B-; B to C+; etc.).