

RELS 131: WORLD RELIGION/RELIGIOUS WORLDS

Queen's University School of Religion/ Arts and Science Online

Taught by: Professor Danielle LaGrone

In this course students will study some of the world's major religions, all the while keeping in mind the challenges that come with critically engaging the category "religion." Studying religion allows students to engage with philosophy, history, literature, politics, fine art, and sociology, and this course gives students the opportunity to begin, at an introductory level, the process of understanding how world religions have both been shaped by and continue to shape global cultures. This course will examine six of the world's religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, the religions of China, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It will primarily consider these religious traditions in their historical context, looking carefully at their origins, sacred literature, and ritual life, though at times we will consider selected contemporary issues that highlight different religions' response to modernity. Please note that this course does not include all world religions on account of time and space. Instead the course examines six of the major world religions and introduces a critical framework with which to further study religion in future courses. Students will engage with the course material through online course notes, readings, and multimedia resources. A major advantage of this course is that it fosters learning through both independent study and through small-group learning activities.

Students will have access to the instructor and teaching team for individual questions and support.

Time Commitment per Week

**10-12
hours**

Prerequisite

None

Evaluation

Mandatory formative assessment - Discussion (x5; best 5 out of 6)
25% - Critical reflection (x5; best 5 out of 6)
10% - Quiz MC questions (x5; best 5 out of 6)
10% - Build MC questions (x5; best 5 out of 6)
5% - Essay outline
20% - Research essay
30% - Final take home exam
Evaluation Subject to Change

Required Textbook/Materials

Yes