

**Religious Studies 3310-002 (CRN 27277): Major World Religions****The University of Texas at El Paso**

Spring 2020, T 4:00-5:40pm, hybrid LART 112/online

Office Hours: T 2:30-3:30 p.m. &amp; by appointment

**J. A. Waggoner, PhD**

(915) 747-5777

jawaggoner@utep.edu

This course will offer students an overview of major religious traditions and practices of the world, using the basic terms/concepts, history, and theories of interdisciplinary Religious Studies. Students will discuss and explore: humanity's use of myth and the divine to explain the natural world; the diverse ways religious and spiritual practices contribute to communities and epistemologies; and different ways scholars and practitioners have described these practices, communities, and systems of meaning. Emphasis will be on analysis of primary and secondary sources, academic writing and discussion, and critical thinking.

**Important Dates**Academic Calendar

Exam 1: 3/10

Exam 2: TBD

Final Paper: 5/9

**Evaluation**

Short Papers

Final Paper

Exams &amp; Quizzes

Discussion &amp; Participation

20% (5SP\*4%)

15%

30% (2E\*10%+2Q\*5%)

35%

**Required Materials**DK. *The Religions Book*. New York, New York: DK, 2013.Novak, Philip. *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions*. HarperOne, 1994.Other required readings and videos will be available free online and/or through the UTEP library online.Please see the course calendar for a complete list of readings and assignments.**Student Responsibilities**

Students should complete assigned readings and assignments on time, ask questions, participate in discussions (in person and online), and take ownership of their success in the course. Participation, attendance, and engagement are required and essential. Students who "disappear" (that is, fail to complete assignments, discuss, and answer emails) may be dropped. Importantly, this course comes with the expectation that students can read and write at a college level, use educational technology tools, and have the discipline to read and work independently.

Learning outcomes and grades will vary; students who fulfill these responsibilities will usually learn more and earn a better grade. Please note that the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) has resources related to academic writing and citing sources properly, and the UTEP Writing Center offers in-person and online consultations. Contact the instructor if you need help.

**Papers**

a) Students will complete five short papers (300-500 words each) analyzing primary source documents and connecting them to the themes of the course. Students will base these papers on primary source readings from assigned portions of *The World's Wisdom*.

b) Students will complete one major paper of the student's *own* design. The student will propose the project, show her work throughout the semester, and work with peers to edit and revise. This paper should follow Turabian/Chicago formatting style.

**Exams & Quizzes**

Exams and quizzes will include a variety of questions related to class readings and activities. Late completion is permitted only on a case-by-case basis with proof of extreme circumstances. Students may consult the course materials but must work independently. The instructor reserves the right to add check-for-completion/check-for-reading quizzes with or without prior notice.

### ***Online/Hybrid Component***

This course is classified as hybrid (<85% online). This means that online and out-of-class activities compose a significant portion of class requirements, and some class meetings are conducted virtually using Blackboard. Students will use Blackboard to access and submit class assignments, collaborate with colleagues, and participate in virtual discussion. Due to the electronic format of course materials and the use of Blackboard, the capable use of smartphones, tablets, and/or computers is required. Students needing technology support should contact the [UTEP Helpdesk](#) where assistance is available via chat, email, or phone. Due to the frequent use of media provided by the UTEP Library, students are encouraged to connect through the [UTEP Virtual Private Network \(VPN\)](#). Students should report dead links to the instructor. In the event that Blackboard is malfunctioning and an assignment is due, please email the assignment to [jawaggoner@utep.edu](mailto:jawaggoner@utep.edu) by the deadline.

### ***Other Policies***

§ The instructor will make every effort to respond to emails ([jawaggoner@utep.edu](mailto:jawaggoner@utep.edu)) within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. Please include "RS3310" in the subject line of your emails. Phone calls are welcome weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

§ The instructor will provide rubrics for major assignments. All assignments will be submitted and graded via Blackboard. Students should monitor their grades and report any problems, confusions, or challenges immediately.

§ Students should exercise academic integrity. Students who cheat or plagiarize will be reported to the [Office of Student Conflict & Conflict Resolution](#). Don't cheat. Ask for help.

§ Please complete papers in academic English. Exceptions may be made for students majoring in Spanish or for certain academic projects. If you need help with writing or English, see the instructor immediately. Si requieres apoyo adicional, no dudes en ponerte en contacto con el instructor.

§ The instructor will make reasonable accommodations to foster the success of all students. The [Assistive Technology Lab](#) offers support for anyone needing assistive technology. Students with disabilities may contact the [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) on the first floor of the student union (915-747-5148 Voice/TTY). It is the student's responsibility to register for and schedule services and communicate their needs to the instructor.

§ The instructor aims to create an inclusive, respectful, supportive, and rigorous learning environment. Students should report behavior that undermines that goal to the instructor immediately. Students may also access [counseling services](#) on campus.

§ The instructor retains the right to make changes to this document and/or to the class schedule. Exceptions to these class policies are rare and made on a case-by-case basis.