

# World Religions

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## 2008 Syllabus

### Overview

"Today, as the Gospel gradually comes into contact with cultural worlds which once lay beyond Christian influence, there are new tasks of inculturation" (ibid., 72). At the same time, some traditionally Christian cultures or cultures imbued with 1,000-year-old religious traditions are being shattered. Thus, it is not only a question of grafting the faith onto these cultures, but also of revitalizing a de-Christianized world whose only Christian references are of a cultural nature. On the threshold of the third millennium, the church throughout the world is faced with new cultural situations, new fields of evangelization.

■ Pontifical Council for Culture, 1999

World Religions is a Junior/Senior elective at Lumen Christi Catholic School. It is a course in comparative religions, taught as a humanities class, in order to enlighten students about non-Catholic religious cultures and traditions. Lumen Christi high school students will be well prepared to lead "the new evangelization" (as Pope John Paul II commissioned) with a thorough understanding of the histories and cultures of the worlds' diverse religious perspectives.

### Topics

1. Studying the World's Religions
2. Primal Religious Traditions
3. Ancient Religions
4. Monotheistic Religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam
5. South Asian Religions: Hinduism, Buddhism
6. East Asian Religions: Confucianism, Taoism
7. Religion in the Modern World

### Text

*World Religions. A Voyage of Discovery.* By Jeffrey Brodd. (Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, 2005.)

### Grading

- **Tests**—based on the chapter(s) covered; standard objective questions with essays
- **Homework Per Chapter:**

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- Key Terms—completed as flash cards, which will enable studying for the tests. In our textbook, all the terms are in bold print.
- Chapter assignments: readings and written work
- Lateness penalty: for each day an assignment is late there will be a deduction of 10 percentage points from the grade
- **EXAM:**
  - Week of May (An exam schedule will be posted.)
- **Grading Methodology**—all work is worth points based on the amount of effort required to complete the task.
  - **Key Terms = 1 point each**
  - **Review Questions** = vary based on length of question (worth between 10 and 25 points typically)
  - **Tests** will be worth around 100 points
  - The final grade will be a percentage grade calculated from the points earned divided by the total possible points.

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**Course Schedule**

Semester 1: 8/25 to 12/19	Class Topics/Text Map	Handouts/Extras
Week 1 Aug 25: 4 days	<b>Topic 1: Studying the World's Religions</b> (Chapter 1) -Forward: The Roman Catholic Church and Non Christian Religions	<i>Syllabus, Text, Notebooks</i>
Week 2 Sep 2: 4 days	↓	
Week 3 Sept 8: 5 days	<b>Topic 2: Primal Religious Traditions</b> (Chapter 2) & Handouts	
Week 4 Sept 15: 5 days	<b>Topic 3: Ancient Religions</b> (Chapter 11)	
Week 5 Sept 22: 5 days	↓	
Week 6 Sept 29: 5 days	<b>Topic 4: Monotheistic Religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam</b> Overview of Monotheism/ Commonalities; Begin Judaism (Chapter 12)	
Week 7: Oct 6: 5 days	↓	
Week 8 Oct 13: 5 days	Christianity (Chapter 13)	
Week 9 Oct 20: 4 days	Islam (Chapter 14)	<i>Fall Break Oct 24 off Friday</i>
Week 10 Oct 27: 5 days	↓	
Week 11 Nov 3: 5 days	<b>Topic 5: South Asian Religions: Hinduism, Buddhism</b> Chapter 3: Hinduism	
Week 12 Nov 10: 5 days	Chapter 4: Buddhism	
Week 13 Nov 17: 5 days	Chapter 9: Zen Buddhism	
Week 14 Nov 24: 2 days	<b>Topic 6: East Asian Religions: Confucianism, Taoism</b> Chapter 7—Confucianism	<i>Thanksgiving: W /Th/ F off</i>
Week 15 Dec 1: 5 days	Chapter 8—Taoism	
Week 16 Dec 8: 5 days	<b>Topic 7: Religion in the Modern World</b> Chapter 15	
Week 17 Dec 15: 4 days	<b>EXAM</b>	

