

Course Description for **Survey of World Religions (37861/2)**

Course Title: Survey of World Religion

Curricular Area: : Social Studies elective

Note: This course does not meet any of the social studies graduation requirements

Course Number: 37861/2

Length: One year

Grade Level: 10-12

9th w/ counselor recommendation

Prerequisites: English 1 or concurrently enrolled in Honors English I

Meets a UC a-g Requirement: *G- Elective*

Meets NCAA Requirement: *Social Science*

Meets High School Graduation Requirement for:
Social Studies ~ Elective Credit

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the historical and cultural development of the World's Principal Religions. Students will study the birth and growth of Hinduism, Buddhism, China's philosophy of Taoism and Confucianism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. This course will meet the UC/CSU elective A-G requirement. This elective course is open to all students.

Alignment

This course is aligned to the *History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools; Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve* (adopted 2001 updated edition). The course is identified in 'Elective courses in History--Social Science, Survey of World Religions (pages 118 - 121).

Instructional Materials

1. Required Textbooks:

Breuilly, Elizabeth (2005)
Religions of the World: The Illustrated Guide to Origins, Beliefs, Traditions and Festivals.
New York: Facts on File. ISBN: 0-8160-6258-7

Smith, Huston (1994) *The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions* New York:

HarperCollins. Paperback
ISBN: 0-06-067440-7
hardback ISBN: 0-06-067453-9

2. Novels and Other Readings:

Reading list of available religious novels will be provided.

3. Supplemental Materials:

Primary Source Literature-
Hinduism: *Vedas, Bhagavadgita, Upanishads*

Buddhism: *Dhammapada*

Confucianism: *Analects of Confucius*

Judaism: *Old Testament*

Islam: *Koran*

Christianity: *New Testament*

Exit Criteria

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Quizzes	10%
Homework	10%
Class participation	20%
Tests	20%
Class Project / Novels	20%
Final Examination	20%
Total:	100%

Development Team

This Course of Study was developed in the Fall of 2005 by Brian Bascom, CHS

Pacing Guide for **Survey of World Religions**

First Quarter

Weeks: 1 - 2 Chapter 1, pp. 8 - 15

Basic questions: Religious explanations of the Origin of Life, What does humankind believe and what does it worship? Why are we here? What does it all mean? Compare and contrast the varied explanations and traditions of the purpose of life.

Weeks 3-4 Primary Source Literature, library resources

Religious questions: What are ethics? What are morals and who/how are they established? How does changing society, advancements in technology, and the clash of cultures influence ethics/morals? How do religions respond to these modern challenges? What are the present day numbers, influence, and geographic distribution of followers of each faith?

Weeks 5 - 7 Chapter 2, pp. 16-39 *Vedas*

Hinduism: Aryan invasion. India's ancient past. What is Polytheism? What is God? How is there Oneness of gods in Brahma? Why do human desires and the material world interact? The Beyond Within.

Weeks 8 - 9 Chapter 2, pp. 40 - 57 *Bhagavadgita, Upanishads*

Hinduism: Hindu's Four Paths to God, Stations of Life, The Caste system, Reincarnations, Karma and Hindu Ethics.

Second Quarter

Weeks 10 - 12 Chapter 3, pp. 58-75

Buddhism: The Enlightened One, Rejection of Hindu's perversions, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path

Weeks 13 - 15 Chapter 3, pp. 76-97 *Dhammapada*

Buddhism: Basic Buddhist Concepts, Meditation and the paths to Nirvana. Theravada Buddhism versus Mahayanist Buddhism. Mahayana schools of Buddhism. Development of Zen Buddhism (Japan). Tantra Buddhism in Tibet.

Weeks 16 - 18 Chapter 4, pp. 98 -122 *The Analects of Confucius*

Confucianism: The First Teacher, China's Social and Political instability, The Challenge of Tradition, Ethics and Religion, Impact on China

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Third Quarter

Weeks 1 – 3 Chapter 5, pp. 122-143

Taoism: The Old Master, Meanings of the Tao, Philosophical Taoism, Taoist Hygiene and Yoga, Vicarious Power: Religious Taoism, The mingling of Powers, Creative Quietude, Other Taoist values

Weeks 4 - 5 Chapter 7, pp. 178-188, *Old Testament*

Judaism: Monotheism and Meaning in God, Meaning in Creation, Meaning in Human Existence, Meaning in History, Power of Tradition, Meaning in Morality

Weeks 6 – 7 Chapter 7, pp. 189-203, *Old Testament*

Judaism: Meaning in Justice, Meaning in Suffering, Messianism, The Hallowing of Life, Revelation, Chosen People, Israel

Weeks 8 – 9 Chapter 6, pp. 144-159, *The Koran*

Islam: Pre-Islamic Culture, Arabian Polytheism and Islam's Monotheism, Muhammad, Migration and Victory, *Koran* and Theological concepts

Weeks 10 – 11 Chapter 6, pp. 160-177, *The Koran*

Islam: Five Pillars of Islam, Social Teachings, Jihad, Sufism, Modern implications for Islam and the world.

Fourth Quarter

Weeks 12 – 13 Chapter 8, pp. 204-216, *New Testament*

Christianity: The Historical Jesus, The Christ of Faith, The End & the Beginning, The Good News

Weeks 14 – 15 Chapter 8, pp. 217-227, *New Testament*

Christianity: The Mystical Body of Christ, The Mind of the Church, Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy

Week 16 Chapter 8, pp. 228-229

Christianity: Protestantism, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Predestination

Weeks 17 – 18 Chapter 9, pp. 230 - 224

Primal Religions: 'Orality, Place, and Time', Australian Experience, Symbolic Mind, Relation between religions

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