

simultaneously very religious and very secular, the tension between tradition and innovation, the realignment of the religious landscape since World War Two, the role of religion in cyberspace, and the changes in the telling of the story of American religion by historians in recent years. The course will move from pre-colonial times through the twentieth century, with attention to selected leaders, trends, and movements

COURSE OUTLINE: See attachment

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Course grade The final course grade will be determined by the following:

Exam 1	150 pts
Exam 2	150 pts
6 short papers	300 pts (6 @ 50 pt)
3 visit reports	210 pts (3 @ 70 pt)
Participation	189 pts (9 @ 21 pt)

I realize this adds up to 999 points and the grading scale is 1000 so you all get 1 free point.

Written assignments: Each of these should be turned in by midnight of the deadline. Late work is penalized.

Class participation The informed and active involvement of each student in class discussion is essential for a course of this kind. Simply adding "I agree" to another student's post isn't participation. I expect each student to make pertinent and substantive contributions to every group discussion. Posting the minimum number of replies and comments (1 topic reply, 3 replies to other students) each with a few sentences is about mid C work. More frequent, lengthier, and more thoughtful postings will raise your grade.

All written work Each paper will be evaluated for content, style, and mechanics. I expect each paper, at a minimum, to 1) fulfill the details of the assignment 2) be well-organized 3) be stylistically acceptable and 4) be free from mechanical errors such as typos and grammatical mistakes. No matter how great the ideas your papers contain, they also must meet the standards for college-level written work. If you think you may have some problems with your writing skills, please contact me.

Each paper will be double spaced, 12 point font. The length requirements don't include a cover page or bibliography.

If you wish to turn in any paper early for an unofficial evaluation and some editing, I'm more than happy to do this. There is a page especially for this course on the Linfield library website. Look here for some ideas about paper topics.

Field trips: It's important that you get a sense of the vast range of types and styles of religious endeavor in the US. You will attend 3 services/events in religious groups different from the one in which you were raised and/or currently practice and submit a short paper. The choice is yours but I encourage you to choose groups with which you are very unfamiliar. Virtually every religious group is open to nonmembers and are gracious and welcoming to those who seek more information. Please see the assignment details under Course Assignments.

Grading scale: I do not grade on a curve. If you are within .5 of the next highest grade, I reserve the option to assign the higher grade, but this is not a promise and will be used only in exceptional circumstances, based on the entire body of your work in this class. Because this is an upper-level course, the standards by which you are assessed and the grading scale used are more rigorous than those in lower division courses.

A	97-100	C+	81-83
A-	94-96	C	78-80
B+	90-93	C-	75-77
B	87-89	D	74-70
B-	84-86	F	69 & below

COURSE POLICIES

Participation Students are expected to log in several times each week, except for unusual and unavoidable circumstances, about which you need to inform me immediately. Absence from even a single week will cause you to miss a substantial portion of course content and discussion. In addition, your absence diminishes the classroom experience for the rest of the students. Approval of absences and the assignment of make-up work are entirely at my discretion. Any unapproved absence will cause you to lose points. I reserve the right to ask for documentation of any absence. If you're going to be out

of town for more than a few days, please e-mail, call, or fax me at the numbers listed on this syllabus. All of my telephones have voice mail.

Late work Any assignment turned in late will lose 1/3 of a letter grade per day of tardiness (from a B to a B- on day 1, B- to C+ on day 2, etc.) It is your responsibility to get a readable file to me, correctly attached, deposited at the correct location within WebCT. If I don't get it or can't read it, for any reason, by the deadline, it's late. WebCT is easy to use and very stable so it's your responsibility to learn how to use it correctly.

Incompletes A grade of Incomplete (I) is given only in emergency situations. The student must request an Incomplete in writing and must obtain my permission. All uncompleted work must be completed within the time limits I set. If you simply don't turn in assignments or the final exam or research paper, your course grade will be calculated with the missed portion counting for 0 points. You must have completed a substantial portion of the coursework before I will consider giving an Incomplete. Doing nothing in the course all semester and requesting an incomplete in the last weeks of the semester will result in failure.

Academic honesty Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found to be engaging in either of these activities at any point in the course will receive a failing grade for the entire course and may be subject to further college sanctions. This includes buying or downloading a research paper or using "cut and paste" to create a research paper. I expect each student to be intimately conversant with the sources and concepts in the research paper s/he turns in and to be able to demonstrate to me that the research and writing are his/her own. Purdue University's discussion of plagiarism is excellent: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html Linfield library's website has excellent links to style manuals and examples of citing websites. Please use these resources when writing your papers. All papers will be submitted to me through Turnitin.com, an authenticating service that compares your paper against 6 billion pages and identifies the use of others' material.

Return of course materials I will return all work within a week of the assigned due date and final papers after the end of the course.

Rules of Discussion The classroom should be a safe haven within which individuals can discuss the widest possible range of topics without fearing retribution, ridicule, or attack. In order for this to happen, we must assume that we are all persons of

intelligence and good will who may ultimately disagree, sometimes to a profound degree, with one another but whose characters are not impugned or intelligence disparaged because of this disagreement. The classroom is not a forum for proselytizing, nor it is a soapbox for diatribes by either students or faculty. For the academic endeavor to succeed, we must treat each other with civility, courtesy, and respect. All perspectives and questions are welcome, as long as they are impelled by a genuine desire for knowledge, can be articulated thoughtfully, and supported by sound reasoning.

Given the nature of this class, there is an additional caveat that must be stated. The academic study of religion does not address the truth or falsity of any religion. We assume that all religions are equally valid; this is quite different from saying they are true. From that assumption comes the understanding that all religions, beliefs, and practices will be discussed with equal respect and openness. This is not a demand that you believe or disbelieve anything, only that you recognize and respect the distinction between matters of faith, i.e. what you believe, and matters of academic inquiry. For this class, matters of individual faith are left aside as we concentrate on the academic inquiry.

Difficulties If you find you're having problems with the class - the papers, attendance, keeping up with the reading, anything, please let me know. I'm always available to help you, but I have to know about the problem while it's going on and before the end of the class.

Students with disabilities Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

Amount of work required This is a 3 semester hour credit course. There is a lot of reading, writing, and participation. The rule of thumb for all college courses is that each credit hour requires about 3-4 hours of work per week so this course will need 9-12 hours of work each week on average. The speed with which you read and write also will affect your workload. Because this is an online course, it is text-based. You'll be spending most of your time reading, thinking, and writing. This is an interesting course but it's also a demanding course. I don't want to scare anyone but you need to assess your course load realistically and in light of your personal and professional responsibilities. If you don't have the time necessary to devote to this course, please

take it at another time. I want everyone to do well and know that some students have struggled with the workload.

