

**Center for Talent Development
Northwestern University
World Religions Syllabus
Gifted LearningLinks Program**

Course Title:

World Religions Honors

Course Description:

Can we know what is good or bad, right or wrong? What is the ultimate purpose of life? Who am I? These are some of the universal questions that many religions have attempted to answer throughout the ages. This course offers a foundation for understanding culture and history in general, and religious phenomena in particular. It defines religion as a system of symbols, myths, doctrines, ethics and rituals from ancient tribal religions to modern times. Students objectively examine the nature and language of religion and religious knowledge. *High School credit: 2 semesters*

Outcomes:**Upon successful completion of this course, students will know:**

How to analyze, compare, and contrast any religion
Essential history and beliefs of the people of the world
Concepts, terms, and themes of all religions
How to give a balanced view of all religions

Upon successful completion of this course, students will understand

Common features of all religions
Sacred space, sacred dance, stories, and writing and drama
The relationship of one religion to another

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Name the Absolute in each religion
Describe creation of the world
Explain the human condition: Body and Soul
Describe problems for humans
Explain the solution for humans
Name rituals and symbols
Explain life after death as understood in each religion

Resources and Materials:

Matthews, W. (2007). *World Religions* Fifth Edition: Thomson Wadsworth.
ISBN: 0-495-00709-9

Schedule:

SEMESTER ONE				
	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 1	Orientation to Online Learning			Student Questionnaire
Week 2		Chapters 1-2		Religions of the Americas
Week 3		Chapters 1- 2		Religions of Africa
Week 4		Chapters 1-2	Reply to Month 1 Question	Exam Americas and Africa September 30
Week 5		Chapter 3		Begin Hinduism
Week 6		Same		Hinduism
Week 7		Same		Hinduism
Week 8		Chapter 3	Reply to Month 2 Question	Exam Hinduism October 31
Week 9		Chapter 4		Begin Buddhism
Week 10		Same		Buddhism
Week 11		Same		Buddhism
Week 12		Same	Reply to Month 3 Question	Exam Buddhism November 30
Week 13		Chapter 5		Begin Jainism and Sikhism

Week 14		Same		Jainism and Sikhism
Week 15		Same		Jainism and Sikhism
Week 16		Chapter 5	Reply to Month 4 Question	Exam Jainism and Sikhism December 31
Week 17		Chapter 6		Begin China and Japan
Week 18		Same		China and Japan
SEMESTER TWO				
	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 19		Same		China and Japan
Week 20		Chapter 6	Reply to Month 5 Question	Exam China and Japan January 31
Week 21		Chapter 7		Ancient Religions of Iraq and Iran
Week 22		Same		Ancient Religions of Iraq and Iran
Week 23		Same		Ancient Religions of Iraq and Iran
Week 24		Chapter 7	Reply to Month 6 Question	Exam Ancient Religions of Iraq and Iran February 29
Week 25		Chapter 8		Begin Judaism
Week 26		Same		Judaism
Week 27		Same		Judaism

Week 28		Chapter 8	Reply to Month 7 Question	Exam Judaism March 31
Week 29		Chapter 9		Begin Christianity
Week 30		Same		Christianity
Week 31		Same		Christianity
Week 32		Chapter 9	Reply to Month 8 Question	Exam Christianity March 31
Week 33		Chapter 10		Islam
Week 34		Same		Islam April 30
Week 35		Same	Reply to Month 9 Question	Islam Exam May 31
Week 36	Catch Up	Same	Reply to Month 9 Question	Exam Islam June 15 End

Student Evaluation and Grading Policies for Credit Courses Only:

a. CTD Grading scale

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Below 60
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Breakdown of final grade: Each assignment is valued at 100%. There are nine assignments and each carries the same weight.

Instructor Biography: Lida E. Criner has regularly developed and taught courses in social sciences since 1985. She received the BA in Religious Studies/Philosophy at the University of Colorado at Boulder (1974) and the M.Ed. at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (1989), with 34 graduate hours in philosophy. She earned the doctorate in education at Arkansas in 1992 with emphasis in adult and higher education, where she conducted an experimental study in critical thinking and reasoning in adult learners at a community college. She teaches Internet Reading, Writing I, and Writing II courses at Southern Arkansas University Tech (SAU). She taught Internet Introduction to Philosophy at SAU Tech for four years and teaches courses in Philosophy, Logic,

Journalistic Writing, and in World Religions at the Center for Talent Development, Northwestern University. She published several journal articles and regularly presents papers or workshops at National and International Conferences, in her field of study.

Contact Information:

- a. xxxxxxxx@ritternet.com
- b. Phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx

GLL SAMPLE