# DOANE UNIVERSITY

# SYLLABUS

| Course Title | Religion in American Life |
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| Course Number | PRE 323-ONL |
| Number of Credits | 3 semester credits |
| Course Dates | 1/14/19 - 3/9/19 |
| Instructor | Lee Tasey |
| Email Address | lee.tasey@doane.edu |
| Office Hours/Availability | Virtually all the time! |
| Phone Number | (531) 333-6244 (I accept text messages) |
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| Textbook Information: (e.g. title, edition, publisher, ISBN) | Allison, J., & Gediman, D. *This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*. Holt Paperbacks: 2009. ISBN: 0805090894<br><br>Bukowski, Charles. *Slouching Toward Nirvana*. Ecco: 2006. ISBN: 0060577045<br><br>Manson, M. & Strauss, N. *The Long Hard Road Out of Hell*. ReganBooks: 1999. ISBN: 0060987464<br><br>Osborne, Mary Pope. *One World, Many Religions: The Ways We Worship*. Knopf: 1996. ISBN: 0679839305<br><br>\*\*\* All four books are required.<br><br>\*\*\* Be sure to purchase *This I Believe II* (part two), not *This I Believe* (part one). |

| Additional Course Materials | N/A |
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| Course Description | An examination of the intellectual and social history of religion in America. Beliefs and practices of major religious groups are also examined. |
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| **Program Outcomes** | Foundational Area of Knowledge:  In Search of Meaning and Values<br><br>Students will work to:<br><br>● consider ways that humans have come to understand the meaning of existence<br>● evaluate the philosophical or spiritual implications of human actions and policies<br>● develop an understanding of their ethical values |
| **Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives** | At the completion of this course students will be able to:<br><br>1. **define** "religion" and other terms related to the study of religion and religion in America<br><br>2. **list** and **describe** the building blocks of various religions in America (e.g. ultimate reality, the human condition, eschatology, etc.) while comparing their similarities and differences<br><br>3. **identify** and **analyze** the ways in which religious ideas are portrayed in American popular culture (e.g., music, literature, film, etc.)<br><br>4. **identify** and **analyze** the many prejudices and stereotypes often associated with religious groups in America<br><br>5. **develop** and **nurture** a tolerance for doubt and uncertainty on religious topics (e.g., God, miracles, spirit beings, immortality, etc.) |

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| **Technology Requirements** | https://www.doane.edu/faq/minimum-computer-requirements |

## Course Schedule (see our course homepage for <u>specific</u> instructions)

| Week or Module | Topic | Content | Assessments Matched to Learning Outcomes | Due Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Week 1 | Judaism in America | *One World, Many Religions*: Judaism<br><br>*This I Believe II*: 1-34<br><br>*Slouching Toward Nirvana*: TBA | Cyber Cafe #1 | Monday by 11:59pm |
| Week 2 | Christianity in America | *One World, Many Religions*: Christianity<br><br>*This I Believe II*: 35-67<br><br>*Slouching Toward Nirvana*: TBA | Cyber Cafe #2 | Monday by 11:59pm |
| Week 3 | Islam in America | *One World, Many Religions*: Islam<br><br>*This I Believe II*: 68-102<br><br>*Slouching Toward Nirvana*: TBA | Cyber Cafe #3 | Monday by 11:59pm |

| Week 4 | Hinduism in America | *One World, Many Religions*: Hinduism<br><br>*This I Believe II*: 103-136<br><br>*Slouching Toward Nirvana*: TBA | Cyber Cafe #4 | Monday by 11:59pm |
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| Week 5 | Buddhism in America | *One World, Many Religions*: Buddhism<br><br>*This I Believe II*: 137-169<br><br>*Slouching Toward Nirvana*: TBA | Cyber Cafe #5 | Monday by 11:59pm |
| Week 6 | Confucianism in America | *One World, Many Religions*: Confucianism<br><br>*This I Believe II*: 170-202<br><br>*Slouching Toward Nirvana*: TBA | Cyber Cafe #6 | Monday by 11:59pm |
| Week 7 | Taoism in America | *One World, Many Religions*: Taoism<br><br>*This I Believe II*: 203-238<br><br>*Slouching Toward Nirvana*: TBA | Cyber Cafe #7<br><br>*Religion Essay: This I Believe* | Monday by 11:59pm |
| Week 8 | Religious Autobiography: Marilyn Manson and the Church of Satan | *The Long Hard Road Out of Hell* (entire) | Cyber Cafe #8<br><br>*Final Exam* | Monday by 11:59pm |

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**Grading Assessments**

| Type of Assessment | Points | Total possible points |
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| Cyber Cafe #1 | 100 |  |
| Cyber Cafe #2 | 100 |  |
| Cyber Cafe #3 | 100 |  |
| Cyber Cafe #4 | 100 |  |
| Cyber Cafe #5 | 100 |  |
| Cyber Cafe #6 | 100 |  |
| Cyber Cafe #7 | 100 |  |
| Cyber Cafe #8 | 100 |  |
| *Religion Essay: This I Believe* | 100 |  |
| *Final Exam* | 100 | **Total Points: 1000** |
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**Online Course**

This is an online course and therefore there will not be any face-to-face class sessions. All assignments and course interactions will utilize internet technologies.

**Communicating with the Instructor**

This course uses a "three before me" policy in regards to student to faculty communications. When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check these three sources for an answer before asking me to reply to your individual questions:

1.       Course syllabus
2.       Announcements in Blackboard
3.       The "Question Center" discussion board

This policy will help you in potentially identifying answers before I can get back to you and it also helps your instructor from answering similar questions or concerns multiple times.

If you cannot find an answer to your question, please first post your question to the "Question Center" discussion board. Here your question can be answered to the benefit of all students by either your fellow students who know the answer to your question or the instructor. You are encouraged to answer questions from other students in the discussion forum when you know the answer to a question in order to help provide timely assistance.

If you have questions of a personal nature such as relating a personal emergency, questioning a grade on an assignment, or something else that needs to be communicated privately, contact me via email or phone. My preference is that you will try to email me first. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to emails Monday-Friday and 48 hours on the weekend.

If you have a question about the technology being used in the course, please contact the Doane University Help Desk for assistance.

Phone: 402-826-8411

Email: helpdesk@doane.edu

Web: http://www.doane.edu

**Computer Requirements**

Minimum computer requirements for the successful use of Blackboard:

http://www.doane.edu/about-doane/offices/its/help-and-support#min_requirements

Minimum computer requirements for success in this course:

- Reliable computer and internet connection
- A web browser (Chrome or Mozilla Firefox)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
- Adobe Flash Player (free)
- Word processing software—Microsoft Word or Google Docs
- Webcam and mic

You are responsible for having a reliable computer and internet connection throughout the course.

**Email and Internet**

You must have an active Doane University e-mail account and access to the Internet. *All instructor correspondence will be sent to your Doane* University *e-mail account.* Please plan on checking your Doane Gmail account regularly for course related messages.

This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. The Blackboard Course Site can be accessed at http://bb2.doane.edu

**Submitting Assignments**

All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, MUST be submitted via Blackboard. Each assignment will have a designated place to submit the assignment.

**Campus Network or Blackboard Outage**

When access to Blackboard is not available for an extended period of time (greater than one entire evening - 6pm till 11pm) you can reasonably expect that the due date for assignments will be changed to the next day (assignment still due by midnight).

**Grade Scale**

A+ = 97-100%   A = 94-96%      A- = 90-93%    B+ = 87-89%    B = 84-86%    B- = 80-83%
C+ = 77-79%    C = 74-76%      C- = 70-73%    D+ = 67-69%    D = 64-66%    D- = 60-63%
F= 59% or below

A        1000 – 900
B        899 – 800
C        799 – 700
D        699 – 600
F        599 and below

| Participation Policy | A student is expected to be prompt and regularly attend on-ground classes in their entirety.   Regular engagement is expected for on-line courses. Participation in class discussions is an integral part of your grade.<br><br>(Faculty to insert any additional class participation; see resource page for ideas.) |
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| **Study Time** | Expectation of the amount of time the course requires students to spend preparing and completing assignments. Typically, students could expect to spend approximately 12 hours a week preparing for and actively participating in this 8-week 3 credit hour course. This actual time for study varies depending on students' backgrounds. |

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| **Late Work** | (Include expectations regarding late work; please see attachment for examples.) |
| **Submitting Assignments** | (Include expectations regarding students' submission of assignments, for example, in class or in Blackboard.) |
| **Communication Policy including Assignment Feedback** | (State your policy on timeliness of communicating with students and length of time needed before assignments will be graded, e.g. 48 hours.) |
| **Academic Integrity Policy** | New Academic Integrity Policy to be released AUTM 2018 |
| **Academic Support** | Please contact academicsupport@doane.edu<br>https://www.doane.edu/graduate-and-adult/academic-support |
| **Disability Services** | https://www.doane.edu/disability-services<br>Doane University supports reasonable accommodations to allow participation by individuals with disabilities.  Any request for accommodation must be initiated by the student as soon as possible.  Each student receiving accommodations is responsible for his or her educational and personal needs while enrolled at Doane University.  Please contact Chris Brady at chris.brady@doane.edu or 402-467-9031 for assistance. |
| **Military Services** | https://www.doane.edu/graduate-and-adult/military |
| **Anti-Harassment Policy** | http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=452 |
| **Grade Appeal Process** | http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=238 |
| **Credit Hour Definition** | Doane University follows the federal guideline defining a credit hour as one hour (50 minutes) of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks (one semester), or the equivalent amount of work over a different time period (e.g., an 8-week term). This definition applies to courses regardless of delivery format, and thus includes in-person, online, and hybrid courses (combination of in-person and online).  It also applies to internship, laboratory, performance, practicum, research, student teaching, and studio courses, among other contexts. |

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| **Syllabus Changes** | Circumstances may occur which require adjustments to the syllabus. Changes will be made public at the earliest possible time. |