



## SYLLABUS

<b>Course Title</b>	Religion in American Life
<b>Course Number</b>	PRE 323-ONL
<b>Number of Credits</b>	3 semester credits
<b>Course Dates</b>	10/14/19 - 12/14/19
<b>Instructor</b>	Lee Tasey
<b>Email Address</b>	lee.tasey@doane.edu
<b>Office Hours/Availability</b>	Virtually all the time!
<b>Phone Number</b>	(531) 333-6244 (I accept text messages, though phone or email are preferred.)
<b>Textbook Information: (e.g. title, edition, publisher, ISBN)</b>	<p>Bukowski, Charles. <i>Slouching Toward Nirvana</i>. Ecco: 2006. ISBN: 0060577045</p> <p>Harrell, Edgar. <i>Out of the Depths: An Unforgettable WWII Story of Survival, Courage, and the Sinking of the USS Indianapolis</i>. Bethany House Publishers: 2016. ISBN: 978-0764217647</p> <p>Martin, James. <i>How Can I Find God?: The Famous and the Not-So-Famous Consider the Quintessential Question</i>. Liguori: 1997. ISBN: 0764800906</p> <p>Osborne, Mary Pope. <i>One World, Many Religions: The Ways We Worship</i>. Knopf: 1996. ISBN: 0679839305</p> <p>Wiesel, Elie. <i>Night</i>. Hill and Wang: 2006. ISBN: 9780374500016</p> <p>*** All five books are <u>required</u>.</p>

<b>Additional Course Materials</b>	N/A
<b>Course Description</b>	An examination of the intellectual and social history of religion in America. Beliefs and practices of major religious groups are also examined.
<b>Program Outcomes</b>	<p>Foundational Area of Knowledge: In Search of Meaning and Values</p> <p>Students will work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider ways that humans have come to understand the meaning of existence</li> <li>• evaluate the philosophical or spiritual implications of human actions and policies</li> <li>• develop an understanding of their ethical values</li> </ul>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives</b>	<p>At the completion of this course students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>identify</b> concepts from the Bible, Greek philosophy and the Enlightenment that inspired the creation of, and gave shape to, the United States of America</li> <li>2. <b>list</b> and <b>describe</b> the building blocks of various religions in America (e.g. ultimate reality, the human condition, eschatology, etc.) while comparing their similarities and differences</li> <li>3. <b>identify</b> and <b>analyze</b> the ways in which religious ideas are portrayed in American popular culture (e.g., music, literature, film, etc.)</li> <li>4. <b>recall</b> the many prejudices and stereotypes often associated with religious groups in America</li> <li>5. <b>develop</b> and <b>nurture</b> a tolerance for complexity and/or doubt in relation to religious topics (e.g., God, miracles, spirit beings, immortality, etc.)</li> </ol>
<b>Course Prerequisites</b>	N/A

<b>Instructional Details</b>	In order to fulfill the program outcomes of PRE - 323, various learning strategies will be used. Strategies include but are not limited to the following: 1) readings on the great religions, both Eastern and Western; 2) tutorial videos by the instructor; 3) discussion forums (Cyber Cafes); and 4) critical writing assignments, such as How Can I Find God? (essay) and Religion on the Line (final exam).
<b>Technology Requirements</b>	<a href="https://www.doane.edu/faq/minimum-computer-requirements">https://www.doane.edu/faq/minimum-computer-requirements</a>

### Course Schedule (see our course homepage for specific instructions)

Week or Module	Topic	Content	Assessments Matched to Learning Outcomes	Due Date & Time
Week 1	Judaism in America	<i>One World, Many Religions: Judaism</i>  <i>How Can I Find God?: 11-50</i>  <i>Slouching Toward Nirvana: 3-59</i>	Cyber Cafe #1	Monday by 11:59pm
Week 2	Christianity in America	<i>One World, Many Religions: Christianity</i>  <i>How Can I Find God?: 51-96</i>  <i>Slouching Toward Nirvana: 60-110</i>	Cyber Cafe #2	Monday by 11:59pm
Week 3	Islam in America	<i>One World, Many Religions: Islam</i>	Cyber Cafe #3	Monday by 11:59pm

		<i>How Can I Find God?: 97-141</i>  <i>Slouching Toward Nirvana: 111-171</i>		
Week 4	Hinduism and Buddhism in America	<i>One World, Many Religions: Hinduism &amp; Buddhism</i>  <i>How Can I Find God?: 142-185</i>  <i>Slouching Toward Nirvana: 172-221</i>	Cyber Cafe #4	Monday by 11:59pm
Week 5	Confucianism and Taoism in America	<i>One World, Many Religions: Confucianism and Taoism</i>  <i>How Can I Find God?: 186-205</i>  <i>Slouching Toward Nirvana: 222-270</i>	Cyber Cafe #5	Monday by 11:59pm
Week 6	God, Evil and Modernity	<i>Out of the Depths</i>	Cyber Cafe #6	Monday by 11:59pm
Week 7	God, Evil and Modernity (Part II)	<i>Night</i>	Cyber Cafe #7  <i>Religion Essay: How Can I Find God?</i>	Monday by 11:59pm
Week 8	America: "The Last, Best Hope of Earth?"	See course shell for readings on World Wide Web	Cyber Cafe #8  <i>Final Exam: Religion on the Line</i>	Monday by 11:59pm

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### Grading Assessments

Type of Assessment	Points	Total possible points
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	
<i>Religion Essay: How Can I Find God?</i>	100	
<i>Final Exam: Religion on the Line</i>	100	Total Points: 1000

## **Online Courses ONLY**

### **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](mailto: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](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

<b>Participation Policy</b>	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. On-line courses require weekly participation for all students. Each student must log in at least once a week and participate in meaningful ways (forum discussion, assignment completion, etc.). A week is measured from Monday through Sunday. If you don't participate each week, then you will lose valuable points, thus affecting your grade.
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<b>Study Time</b>	Typically, students can 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.
<b>Late Work</b>	Late work will be accepted at the consent of the instructor.
<b>Submitting Assignments</b>	All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. Do <u>not</u> email me your assignments.
<b>Communication Policy including Assignment Feedback</b>	Students can expect their assignments to be graded within seven (7) days after they are submitted through Blackboard.
<b>Academic Integrity Policy</b>	<p>Doane University expects and requires all its students to act with honesty and integrity and respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. Academic dishonesty, the act of knowingly and willingly attempting or assisting others to gain academic success by dishonest means, is defined in four categories:</p> <p>Cheating - "Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information or study aids in an academic exercise."</p> <p>Fabrication - "Intentional and unauthorized falsification of invention or any information or citation in an academic exercise."</p> <p>Facilitating Academic Dishonesty - "Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of dishonesty," and/or coercing others to do the same.</p> <p>Plagiarism - "Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise," in both oral and written projects.</p> <p>Gehring, D., Nuss, E.M., &amp; Pavela, G. (1986). Issues and perspectives on academic integrity. Columbus, OH: National Association of Student Personnel Administrators</p> <p>For more information on the sanctions for academic dishonesty, please visit the website:  <a href="https://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=16&amp;navoid=1333">https://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=16&amp;navoid=1333</a></p>
<b>Academic Support</b>	<p>Please contact <a href="mailto:academicsupport@doane.edu">academicsupport@doane.edu</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.doane.edu/graduate-and-adult/academic-support">https://www.doane.edu/graduate-and-adult/academic-support</a></p>



<b>Disability Services</b>	<a href="https://www.doane.edu/disability-services">https://www.doane.edu/disability-services</a> 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.
<b>Military Services</b>	<a href="https://www.doane.edu/graduate-and-adult/military">https://www.doane.edu/graduate-and-adult/military</a>
<b>Anti-Harassment Policy</b>	<a href="http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=5&amp;navoid=452">http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=5&amp;navoid=452</a>
<b>Grade Appeal Process</b>	<a href="http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=5&amp;navoid=238">http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=5&amp;navoid=238</a>
<b>Credit Hour Definition</b>	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.
<b>Syllabus Changes</b>	Circumstances may occur which require adjustments to the syllabus. Changes will be made public at the earliest possible time.
<b>Doane Syllabus Addendum</b>	Each student is responsible for being aware of the policies, resources, and expectations as specified in the Doane Syllabus Addendum located at <a href="https://www.doane.edu/Syllabus">https://www.doane.edu/Syllabus</a> .