

Please fill out this form acknowledging that you and your student have read and discussed the information included on this syllabus. <https://bit.ly/3fzJJwt>

IB World Religions Syllabus - Fall 2021

Course Description

In the contemporary world, religion has a significant influence on individuals and societies across the globe. The power of religion to both unite and divide affects believers and unbelievers alike. Therefore, religion in its varied forms is a distinctive realm of human experience that demands academic inquiry.

The course seeks to promote an awareness of religious issues in the contemporary world by requiring the study of a diverse range of religions. Religions will be studied in such a way that students acquire a sense of what it is like to belong to a particular religion and how that influences the way in which the followers of that religion understand the world, act in it, and relate and respond to others. But, above all, the goal of this course is to provide opportunities for students to develop empathy for and engage in civil discourse with those with whom they disagree. If we each were to master this skill, our community, our nation, and our world would become a better place.

Course Sequence

Fall Semester

- 1 Introduction to the study of religion as a discipline (& TOK)
- 2 Introduction to Confucianism & Daoism
- 3 Introduction to Hinduism & Buddhism
- 4 Introduction to Judaism
- 5 Introduction to Christianity
- 6 Introduction to Islam
- 7 Internal Assessment (research paper)

Spring Semester

- 8 Buddhism in-depth study
 - 9 Christianity in-depth study
 - AP / IB Exam weeks
 - 10 Introduction to Sikhism, independent study
- Course Final: The Last Supper (COVID conditions permitting)

College-level Content

IB courses often present college-level content. This is why Diploma students who earn 30 IB points are able to enter college as Sophomores at a number of universities. As such, be aware that we will be tackling some college-level material in class. This includes, but is not limited to, discussions about how different religions approach ethical issues embedded in family and couple relationships. It also occasionally includes viewing film which explores mature themes and/or exhibits occasional coarse language.

Google Classroom:

All materials and assignments will be posted and turned in through Google Classroom except for the Internal Assessment (IA). The IA will be turned in through Managebac, the learning portal designed for IB students. You will be instructed on how to navigate Managebac at a later time. All important course information will be posted via Google Classroom (including any assignment that must be submitted via Managebac).

Grading Policy:

I use a weighted grading system to calculate your grade. Grades are weighted as follows:

- **Formative Assessments** - Assignments, Participation, Quizzes **30%**
- **Summative Assessments** - Unit Tests, Cumulative Tests, IA & Final **70%**

The Internal Assessment (**IA**) is a project that will encourage you to move beyond your comfort zone and explore religious beliefs that you do not understand. It is also an opportunity to attempt to understand the nature of individual belief by taking the time to get to know someone who sees the world differently from the way that you do. As such, the IA is a rewarding project that is conducted in small, manageable steps. Consequently, even my most intellectually challenged students have consistently been awarded good grades by the IB for their work. Moreover, **it is the culminating event of the World Religions Part 1 course experience.**

Due to the reasons mentioned above, failure to turn in a completed¹ IA by then end of the term (Dec. 22) will result in an **Incomplete** being entered as your semester grade on December 23. Consequently, if the Internal Assessment is not completed by the first day of 2nd Semester (January 11, 2022), the Incomplete grade will turn into a grade no higher than a **D**.

In the second semester of the course, the IB Examination will be the culminating event. Students who fail to register, pay for the examination (if you have difficulty paying, discuss this with Mrs. Geluk), and take the examination will have a similar examination at OHS counted towards their OHS course grade.

Memorization

You will be required to memorize some key passages in the course of World Religions. If you do not have much experience with rote memorization, some strategies and links to resources will be provided for you. Ultimately, it does require some focused effort, but I have witnessed academically challenged students succeed at this, so I am confident you can, too!

Communication:

The key to success in this course is communication. I recognize that this is a strange and difficult time, and that many of you have jobs, younger siblings, and other obligations outside of school. If you are having any difficulties getting your work completed, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am flexible and will work with you on getting your assignments completed. This class is a required course for graduation, and I do not want it to be a stumbling block.

One way to reach me is through email at nmartinez@rjuhsd.us, but I do not typically respond to emails after 3PM, (though, Monday through Friday, I will respond within 24 hours). After school hours, if you have urgent need for help, you may text between 3:00 - 6:00 PM at (916) 298-4404, Monday through Friday. If I am not commuting or cooking supper, I will likely respond to the text immediately. It may be that you are having the same problem that others are having, and I need to be made aware of it as soon as possible (particularly if it is a technical issue that is affecting everyone).²

Absences and Late Work:

- I will post daily agendas and the unit schedule on Google Classroom. Please check these regularly.
- If you are absent on a quiz/test day, please contact me to schedule a time to make it up.

¹ "Completed" means that the minimum word count has been met and that none of those words have been plagiarized.

² Courtesy of Katherine Sunseri.

- Late assignments will receive a maximum of 70% credit and will be accepted for credit up until 2 weeks after the assignment was originally due. Some long-term assignments may have a different penalty attached to them, and this will be clearly explained in advance of such assignment deadlines.

Bathroom Policy:

- Use your restroom time wisely; our class time is limited.
- If students start abusing bathroom breaks, a limited pass system will be instituted.

Intervention Sessions:

Period 1 priority intervention sessions are on Tuesdays from 9:12 - 9:40AM. It is an opportunity for students who are struggling to get extra help or those who need to make up tests or quizzes to get caught up. If your teacher communicates with you that you have been assigned a hub session, attendance to that hub is mandatory. Failure to show to the assigned hub session will result in a referral to administration.

Weighted Course:

Remember, this and other IB courses award extra grade points which allow students to earn higher than a 4.0 for their work in this course. This is due to the fact that IB courses require more effort to earn the marks that students are accustomed to earning in CP courses. In other words, the 'grade bump' is earned, not gifted. That being said, World Religions is arguably one of the least challenging of the 'grade bump' courses, so don't get intimidated. You're going to do great!!!

Academic Dishonesty

If you are caught cheating, colluding, plagiarizing, copying others' work, letting others copy your work, or in any other manner compromising the integrity of any assignment, quiz or test, you and your accomplices will earn a permanent 0% for the assignment, quiz, or test. You will not be allowed to make up the work or do "extra credit" to make up the points. You will also be referred to your Assistant Principal's office for discipline.

VIKING EXPECTATIONS

VIKING EXPECTATIONS ³	CHOOSE RESPECT	BE RESPONSIBLE	HAVE INTEGRITY	ACTIVELY ENGAGE
EXPECTED STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN OUR DIGITAL CLASSROOM	<p>Use appropriate language and tone with everyone</p> <p>Respect others' personal experiences and perspectives.</p> <p>Try to reduce distractions before logging in.</p>	<p>Arrive a few minutes early to the start time.</p> <p>Be present - physically and mentally. Please leave your camera on.</p> <p>Take an active, positive role in classroom discussions.</p>	<p>Use only your first and last name for screen names.</p> <p>Be mindful of others' feelings, opinions, and experiences</p> <p>Complete assignments on your own. If you are struggling or need extra time, come talk to me before you copy off a classmate. See the above Academic Dishonesty policy.</p>	<p>Let me know if you will be absent. Make up assigned work when you miss a class.</p> <p>When you are in breakout groups, stay focused on the questions and participate fully. Participation in whole-group and breakout discussions may be graded.</p>

³ Courtesy of Kim Carroll.

			Do not share quiz or test information with other classes	
Classroom Routine/Behavioral Expectations				
Entering the Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive a few minutes early to the start time to prepare yourself for class. • Complete any warm-up assignment. 			
Working in Break-out Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In breakout groups, be a partner that contributes equally. • Respect others' perspectives, thoughts, and feelings. This class deals with current events and can get controversial! • Remain on task. When your group is finished with the task, wait patiently to be brought back to the whole group. 			
Technology Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use only your first and last names as screen names. • Have your device fully charged or plugged in before class. • Bring headphones to every class. • Must use your district-distributed chromebook for all quizzes and tests. 			
Asking for Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions. Feel free to email me, but know that I try not to respond to work inquiries past 6PM. I will get back to you as soon as I can and no later than 24 hours. 			
End of Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class may end with an exit ticket. Please don't leave the class until dismissed. If I do not have an emergency to attend to, I will stay at the end of every class for questions. 			

Parent "Signature"

Please fill out this Google Survey acknowledging that you and your student have read and discussed the information included on this syllabus. <https://bit.ly/3fzJJwt>