

IB World Religions Syllabus - Spring 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.

Spring Semester

Unit 8	Buddhism OR Christianity in-depth study
Unit 9	IA Final Draft
-	AP / IB Exam Review
Unit 10	Introduction to Sikhism / other religions of interest

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.

The codes to our Google Classroom sites are posted below. All important course information will be posted here as well. Students, please *do not* turn off notifications for Google Classroom. Notifications will help you stay on top of assignments and due dates. Parents, please feel free to enroll in our Google Classroom sites in order to help your student stay on track.

PERIOD 2 GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODE	https://rjuhsd-us.zoom.us/j/91946724200
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Zoom:

All class meetings will be hosted through Zoom. The times, links, and passwords are posted below. Make sure that you log in to each Zoom session using your **@student.rjuhsd.us** account to help verify your Zoom attendance. Please see the Viking Expectations chart on the last page for details on norms for our meetings.

ZOOM INFORMATION	MEETING TIME	MEETING LINK
Period 2	9:00 - 10:10 AM	

Grading Policy:

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

- **Formative Assessments** - Assignments, Participation, Quizzes **40%**
- **Summative Assessments** - Unit Tests, Cumulative Tests, IA & Final **60%**

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 completed IA by then end of the term will result in an **Incomplete** being entered as your semester grade on Friday, March 5. Consequently, if the Internal Assessment is not completed by the first day of 4th Quarter (Monday, March 15), the Incomplete grade will turn into a grade no higher than a **D**.

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. **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).

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.
- 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.
- No late work will be accepted for credit after Friday, March 5 for the Midterm course grade, nor will late work be accepted after Friday, May 21 for the Final course grade.
- Feedback by the instructor may be limited or not provided on work submitted after the assigned due date. Unless otherwise noted at the time the assignment is distributed this policy applies to all assignments.

Bathroom Policy:

- If you need to use the restroom during a Zoom, please make sure you are muted and send a private Zoom chat letting me know where you have gone.
- In order to mitigate the possibility of being marked absent (see attendance policy above), make sure that you send a Zoom chat message when you leave for a bathroom break and when you return.

Absence Policy:

It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher regarding any missed assignments or assessments and to complete them in the period provided. If you are anticipating an absence please contact the teacher before so arrangements can be made to assist you in continuing your learning around your circumstances.

Exit Tickets:

Classes will typically end with a short exit ticket. If you are present at the beginning of class, should you miss the exit ticket event at the end of class, those points cannot be made up at a later time. You do not need to make up the exit ticket if you are absent, but you should complete the other assignments.

Hub Sessions:

HUB time will be utilized to support students with both enrichment and intervention. Mrs. Martinez will be scheduling a regular Zoom Meeting on the priority days for this course for students to come in for extra help. If your class score is **69% or below, you are expected to attend HUB every Tuesday until your grade improves**. You are expected to attend whether Mrs. Martinez sends a formal invitation or not. Mrs. Martinez may also require students whose class score is higher than 69% to attend a HUB session for Intervention and support when need is demonstrated based on assessment performance or current grade status. HUB time carries the same expectations as a regular class session.

Period 2 priority Hub sessions are on **Tuesdays from 1:50-2:35 PM**. 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.

Masks/Food/Bathroom:

- Please wear your mask at all times when you are in the classroom.
- If you need to leave to use the restroom, please ask Mrs. Martinez for permission.
- If you need to eat a snack or take a sip of your drink, please also ask Mrs. Martinez for permission to step out outside and do so. Do not eat or drink in the classroom.
- Do your best to wait to eat/drink until passing period.

VIKING EXPECTATIONS

VIKING EXPECTATIONS ¹	CHOOSE RESPECT	BE RESPONSIBLE	HAVE INTEGRITY	ACTIVELY ENGAGE
EXPECTED STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN OUR DIGITAL CLASSROOM	<p>I record all Zoom sessions so that students can access later. Be mindful of this as you choose your on-camera behaviors.</p> <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>Keep yourself muted until it is time for you to talk and participate. You may also use the chat to ask questions.</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>Do not share quiz or test information with other classes</p>	<p>Attendance is important for your learning. Log-in and attend all scheduled class meetings. See the above attendance 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 will be graded.</p>
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. ● Make sure your camera is on and that you are muted. ● Complete the 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. ● Keep your backgrounds simple so they don't distract from our conversations. ● Have your device fully charged or plugged in before class. 			
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 will typically end with a (graded) exit ticket. Please don't leave the Zoom until dismissed. I will hang out 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.

¹ Courtesy of Kim Carroll.