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# IB World Religions Syllabus - Fall 2023

## 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 Judaism
- 4 Introduction to Hinduism & Buddhism
- 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
  - 11 Introduction to Scientology (time permitting)
- Course Final: The Last Supper

## Needed Materials

- Dedicated binder for the course
- History of the Americas Paper 3 textbook (physical textbook)
- Hodder Paper 1 & Paper 2 textbooks (online access will be provided by your instructor)

**Parent & student**

**“sign” syllabus here:**



### 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.

### Canvas:

Most of the important course information, including deadlines and materials, will be posted via Canvas.

### 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 completed<sup>1</sup> IA by Dec 20,2023 will result in a final grade no higher than a **D** for the fall term.

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. Carroll), and take the examination will have a similar examination at OHS counted towards their OHS course grade.

### Memorization

You will be expected to memorize some key material in the course of World Religions. If you do not have much experience with rote memorization, some strategies and links to resources can be provided to 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!

### Daily homework rubric

Completing tasks assigned is the *bare minimum* expected of IB students. Simply filling up a page or a form is not enough to earn full marks on daily assignments. It is expected that IB students take ownership of their learning, recognizing the task is a *means to an end*, not an end. Your job is to show evidence of your ability to *learn independently*, a key indicator of your preparedness for adulthood. The rubric below indicates more clearly this learning expectation.

<b>Independent Learner</b> Level 20 pts	<b>Semi-independent Learner</b> Level 15 pts	<b>Struggling learner</b> Level 10 pts	<b>SOS!</b> Level 0 pts
Assignment is complete. Followed instructions carefully <b>and</b> responded to prompts accurately and thoroughly enough to properly prepare for the	Assignment is complete. Not all tasks were completed according to instructions. <b>and/or</b> did not respond to prompts thoroughly enough to properly prepare for the	Assignment is incomplete.	Mostly Incomplete / Missing

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

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You may **resubmit** work within the first **2 school days** of receiving feedback in order to try to earn a score that corresponds to **one level higher on the rubric**.

### Communication:

The key to success in this course is communication. I recognize 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](mailto: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 of help, you may text me via the **Remind** app (using your student Google Login). 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). However, I do not respond to Remind texts after 8:00 PM, so please email rather than text after 8 PM.

### Absences and Late Work:

- I will post daily agendas and the unit schedule on Canvas. 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. After 2 weeks from the due date, no credit can be earned for late work. Some long-term assignments may have a different penalty attached to them, and this will be clearly explained in advance of such assignment deadlines.

### Minga Hall Passes:

If you need to go to the bathroom, the Wellness Center, Nurse, etc: please follow this procedure:

1. **Ask permission:** Ask the teacher permission to go to the bathroom, Wellness, etc.
2. **Approval:** Your teacher will respond with either "yes, go ahead and create your hall pass" or "no" and the process is over.
3. **Create pass:** Create your own hall pass on your mobile device or Chromebook and show it to the teacher to confirm that it is active.
4. **Use pass:** You can then depart with or without your device. Staff can view all hall passes in the Hall Pass Dashboard.
5. **Return before expiration:** Return to class before the pass has expired.

Please keep in mind:

- The school has instituted a limited bathroom pass system. So please be considerate of your classmates who also need to go to the bathroom after you.
- Please do not ask for permission to use the restroom when
  - a classmate is in the middle of a presentation or extended comment
  - when the teacher is giving instructions or lecturing.
    - If it is an emergency (during either of the above circumstances) create your pass and show it to the teacher as active and go to the destination indicated on your pass.
      - If this privilege is abused, it will be revoked.

### Intervention Sessions:

Period 4 priority intervention sessions are on Fridays from 1:26 - 1:52 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 (whether you individually or you and the entire class collectively) have been

assigned an intervention session, attendance to that intervention is mandatory. Failure to show up to the assigned intervention 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	CHOOSE RESPECT	BE RESPONSIBLE	HAVE INTEGRITY	ACTIVELY ENGAGE
<b>EXPECTED STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN OUR CLASSROOM</b>	<p>Use appropriate language and tone with everyone</p> <p>Respect others' personal experiences and perspectives.</p>	<p>Be in your seat and ready to participate before the bell rings.</p> <p>Be present - physically and mentally. Please leave your cell phone in your bag unless instructed to do otherwise.</p> <p>Take an active, positive role in classroom discussions.</p> <p>Use your Minga hall passes as they are intended to be used.</p> <p>Bring your binder to class every day.</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.</p> <p>Do not share quiz or test information with other classes</p>	<p>When you are in breakout groups, stay focused on the questions and participate fully. <b>Participation in whole-group and breakout discussions may be graded.</b></p> <p>Monitor Canvas for assignments, especially if you have been absent from class..</p> <p>Let me know if you will be absent.</p>
<b>Classroom Routine/Behavioral Expectations</b>				
<b>Entering the Classroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive a few minutes early to the start time to prepare yourself for class.</li> <li>• Be seated before the bell rings.</li> <li>• Complete any warm-up assignment.</li> </ul>			
<b>Working in Small Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In small groups, be a partner that contributes equally.</li> <li>• Respect others' perspectives, thoughts, and feelings. This class deals with current events and can get controversial!</li> <li>• Remain on task. When your group is finished with the task, wait patiently to be brought back to the whole group.</li> </ul>			
<b>Technology Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have your device fully charged or plugged in before class.</li> <li>• Keep your cell phones in your pocket or in your bag.</li> </ul>			

<b>Asking for Help</b>	<b>During class:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be bold! "Fortune favors the brave!" Raise your hand when you need help!</li></ul> <b>After class:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If I have made an error on Canvas or Canvas is malfunctioning in some way, <b>text me</b>.</li><li>• For all other concerns, feel free to <b>email me</b>, but know that I generally do not respond to work emails after 4PM. I will get back to you as soon as I can and no later than 24 hours during the work week.</li></ul>
<b>End of Class</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please don't leave the class until dismissed.</li><li>• Please stay seated until the bell rings.</li><li>• Please do not congregate at the door beforehand.</li><li>• If I do not have an emergency to attend to (or bathroom needs), I will stay at the end of class for questions.</li></ul>

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