IMPORTANT: My reason for providing such a detailed syllabus is because classroom time should be used for actual study of course material and NOT to discuss procedures, deadlines etc. The onus is on you to carefully digest the contents of this syllabus. If you feel that certain other information should be included, please contact me via e-mail. To remain in the class, you must, by the last day of WEEK 2, give me an index card with your contact information as well as a signed declaration thus: I have read and understood the syllabus and agree to its conditions.

Course Description
REL S 379 attempts to understand the ways in which religion is a motivating force for both violent and non-violent action. We begin with examples of religious terror against others, then against the self, and move on to compare these practices to forms of religious compassion and non-violent justice seeking. RELS 379 falls within the category of Explorations with the General Education (GE) courses.

Courses that fulfill the 9-unit requirement for Explorations in General Education take the goals and skills of GE Foundations courses to a more advanced level. Your three upper division courses in Explorations will provide greater interdisciplinary, more complex and in-depth theory, deeper investigation of local problems, and wider awareness of global challenges. More extensive reading, written analysis involving complex comparisons, well-developed arguments, considerable bibliography, and use of technology are appropriate in many Explorations courses.

This is an Explorations course in the Humanities and Fine Arts. Completing this course will help you to do the following in greater depth: 1) analyze written, visual, or performed texts in the humanities and fine arts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments; 2) describe various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures; 3) identify issues in the humanities that have personal and global relevance; 4) demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of the Humanities.

Additional Learning Objectives
- To understand the role religion plays in culture, especially in war and peace, and to improve multicultural literacy
- To become more reflective about one’s own beliefs and more tolerant about the beliefs of others
- To learn specialist religion studies terminology appropriate to the level of this class
- To be able to discuss the basic worldviews of the religions studied with respect to violence and peace
- To interpret religious values, images, symbols, and texts critically
- To be able to objectively examine religion, moving from confessional to academic study.
Clarification about Workbooks

Your course-reader doubles as a workbook. It is elemental to this course and you must have it with you for every class. It has additional material that is vital for this class. Please note that your answers must be either typed or legibly written for the scheduled topics. You must answer ALL questions for the allotted readings. Since this is a high-enrolment class, I do not expect to have the opportunity to check your books more than once. This means that you will probably have only ONE opportunity for me to grade your book; that also means that you will not be told to “correct” anything and turn it in later. Please note that I am working on probability here: it is possible that I MIGHT check your book on another occasion. All of this should tell you to come to class with all relevant assignments complete.

If you are absent, you forfeit the opportunity to hand in your book and must await my calling you again. Do not try to hand in your book in the following class with the excuse that you were absent when your name was originally called.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Both are mandatory. I do take random roll calls, and there are demerit points: three continuous, unexcused absences will mean you lose one letter grade. I want that you come to class prepared to participate rather than just maintain a corporeal presence. I structure examination questions around what you read in the class texts, and my lectures (i.e. what you read, and what you hear). If you absent yourself, you will be at a disadvantage when answering questions based on lecture material.

When a guest speaker addresses the class or a film is shown during the regular class time, you will be expected to stay for the entire lecture/showing.

Religious Holidays

If you observe religious holidays that are not listed in the school calendar, please inform me within two weeks of the start of the semester so that I can schedule examinations/quizzes to accommodate you.

Class Conduct

Please remember that the classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. Differences of viewpoint or concerns should be expressed in terms that are supportive of the learning process. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from the class. If you wish to remain in this class, you must observe the following:

- Turn off all cellular phones and pagers before entering the classroom
- You may NOT listen to IPODS during class
- You may NOT complete assignments for other courses during this class
- Only one person speaks at any given time. If I have to cite you for talking in class, you will be issued 10 demerit points for the first contravention, and 15 points for each subsequent one.
- I am only interested in material that you can prove or ascribe to a recognized authority. I will not allow arguments based on your report that “My priest said...” or “My guru said...”
- Laptops may NOT be used without my permission; when such permission is granted, users will be restricted to the first row.
- If you are caught surfing the internet, you will be issued 10 demerit points and prohibited from further use of a laptop in the class for the remainder of the semester.
Grading Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum %=Letter Grade</th>
<th>Minimum %=Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 A</td>
<td>74 C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 A-</td>
<td>70 C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 B+</td>
<td>65 D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82 B</td>
<td>60 D</td>
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<tr>
<td>79 B-</td>
<td>55 D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 C+</td>
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- During the course of the semester, you will be able to see your grade by checking the GRADEBOOK section on BLACKBOARD.
- I will only issue an Authorized Incomplete (I) when a small portion of required coursework has not been completed due to unforeseen, but fully justified reasons. You must complete the required work within one calendar year immediately following the end of the term in which it was assigned. If this is not done, you will receive an IC-Incomplete Charged Grade that will count as an F for GPA computation.
- A grade of "WU" for "Withdrawal Unauthorized" (formerly "U") indicates that you enrolled in a course, did not officially withdraw from the course, but failed to complete course requirements. For purposes of GPA computation, this grade is equivalent to an "F". If you attend a portion of a course and then, after receiving a failing grade, stop attending without officially withdrawing, you will receive a final grade of "F" rather than "WU".

Quiz and Examination Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Designation</th>
<th>Scheduled Date</th>
<th>Maximum Mark</th>
<th>Course Weight (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workbook</td>
<td>See Syllabus</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper/Equivalent</td>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>December 15</td>
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<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>155</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at SDSU and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

Change of Syllabus

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. It is your responsibility to check for announcements made if you absent yourself from any class.
Week 8 (Oct. 20, 22):

Islam
Readings: WR: Chapter 7
Class Reader: 193-205.
Darfur, Suicide Bombings, Honor Killings
Class Discussions, Possible Film.
Course Reader: 128-135.

Midterm Examination: October 22.

Week 9 (Oct. 27, 29)
Open discussion time. Possible Guest Speaker(s).
Violence against Self as a Ritual: FGM, Male Circumcision, Prescribed Penalty from Scripture, Atonement, Flagellation (Christians in Philippines, Muslims at Ashura, and Thayapusan in Malaysia etc.) Groups will have to provide proof of research on topics. Each will speak for five minutes on subject.

Week 10 (Nov. 3, 5): Apocalyptic Violence
Readings: Course Reader: 104-126.
Arab-Israeli Dispute: Religion as Politics; Politics as Religion.
Possible Showing of Occupation 101

PART 2: NON-VIOLENCE

Week 11 (10, 12):
Theories of non-Violence, Ahimsa, Martin Luther King, Jainism, Ideal of Abrahamic Religions.
Readings: WP: Ch 8, 9.
Hinduism and Buddhism
WP: Chapter 2
Gandhi: Ahimsa
Student research into Jainism, Sikhism. Possible Guest Speaker.

Week 12 (Nov. 17, 19):
Judaism
Readings: Class Reader: 149ff.
Enhancement Assignment: 156.
Possible Guest Speaker

Week 13 (Nov. 24)
Islam
Readings: Chapter 7, WP
Class Reader: 139-147.
Enhancement Exercise: 148
Possible Guest Speaker