Course Overview
Welcome everyone to World Religions: Religious Studies 101. I am happy to have you all in the course. This course covers the historical development of religious traditions in the world. Beliefs and practices important to religious self-understanding, debates over religious authority, accommodations to modern science, and relationships between religions will inform our discussions.

We will attend weekly lectures on campus M & W and I will post the Power Points that introduce each chapter and provide an outline and/or overview of each chapter that I use in class to Blackboard. They are posted in the tool bar named “Lectures.” I also will tweet interesting stories I find. It is optional to follow me. My twitter ID is @DocAngFeres

GE Course Objectives
This course fulfills the Humanities portion of the Foundations section of the General Education (GE) Requirements. San Diego State University’s General Education program emphasizes seven essential capacities:

1. Construct, analyze, and communicate arguments
2. Apply theoretical models to the real world
3. Contextualize phenomena
4. Negotiate differences
5. Integrate global and local perspectives
6. Illustrate relevance of concepts across boundaries
7. Evaluate consequences of actions.

Per the SDSU Catalogue, page 91, Foundations of Learning courses introduce basic concepts, theories, and approaches offered by disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas of study. They also provide the foundation to understand and approach problems in the academy, and in local and global real-world environments. They strive to cultivate skills in reading, writing, communication, computation, information-gathering, and the use of technology.

Goals for GE Courses in the Humanities and Fine Arts
Analyze written, visual, or performed texts in the humanities and fine arts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments. Develop a familiarity with various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures. Argue from multiple perspectives about issues in the humanities that have personal and global relevance. Demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of the humanities.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to analyze and synthesize primary and secondary sources to explain how they support a thesis regarding the world religions.

2. Students will be able to explain relationships between the causes of historical events in the development of world religions and their effects.

3. Students will be able to describe a relative individual from a world religion and explain his/her significance.

**Enrollment Information**

- No Prerequisites

**Course Materials**

The books listed below are **required** reading for this course and are available for purchase or rent at the SDSU bookstore.

1. Khaleel Mohammed. Editor. An Introduction to World religions
2. Rels 101 Workbook - you will be completing quizzes from this workbook that equal 10% of your grade
3. Supplemental Readings on Bb supplied by instructor.

A good dictionary is highly recommended.

Course Structure and Conduct

This will be a "hybrid" course, that is, part of it takes place in the classroom and part online. That means that in some weeks there may be more emphasis on the classroom aspects of the course and in other weeks more emphasis on the online aspects.

The Online Component: Because this is an on- and off-campus class, components of online learning are integral to the course. We will meet with each other and the primary faculty for a 3 hour session weekly, during which time we will cover questions, lecture material and some seminar material in preparation for the rest of our week of “online” study. It is expected that you will spend as many hours online as you would in class as well as continue to put in all of the hours necessary for homework for a 3-unit class.

Announcements will be made online. Discussions will be held online as well as in class. Questions for online work will be posed in the Blackboard course discussion forum and students will be expected to post and respond to other students in that forum. Assignments will be submitted both online and in class. We will be on Blackboard for Friday discussion board work.

I strongly suggest that you do the Blackboard orientation before the class begins. http://its.sdsu.edu/blackboard/student/.

You access the course via the Blackboard link: https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/webapps/login/

Please be assured that if and when problems occur on the SDSU end, you will not be penalized. However, when problems occur on your end, the story is different: You are responsible for your computing needs. When problems occur on your end, you must fix them. The instructor cannot provide IT support. IT problems that you experience do not constitute an acceptable excuse for non-completion of work.

Success in a Blended Course

This blended hybrid course offers the advantage of learning on Fridays anywhere and anytime. Despite this flexibility, to succeed in the online learning environment students should keep in mind the following requirements:
• A computer - PC or Macintosh- with a stable Internet connection. Higher speed Internet connections (cable modem, DSL) are strongly recommended.
• Basic computer skills - email, surf the Internet, and create basic word processor files.
  • Microsoft Office 2010, or higher (Must include Word and PowerPoint).
• A reliable email address that will not change from the beginning until the end of the semester.
• A "technology back-up" plan. Students should plan out an alternative location to do assignments and quizzes in the event their computer or Internet connection is not working!
• Time. Distance learning courses require as much time as traditional (classroom) instruction. The primary difference is that online instruction allows flexibility.
• Self motivation. Online students must be "self starters" and have the ability to work with a minimum of supervision. Students who procrastinate are rarely successful in distance learning courses.

Students are also required to:
• Make use of the online course materials available via Blackboard. Access to these materials is available once you have registered to the course.
  • Participate in asynchronous online discussions.
  • Complete readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
  • Check email on a daily basis.

Course Assessment and Grading

Your grade is based on the following weighted categories

1. Syllabus Quiz (5%): Completed on Blackboard (Bb). Do this right and you start off with a big A.

2. Tests (60% combined) IN CLASS. Four tests. I take the questions from my lectures, any videos, our main text, workbook, and any supplemental readings I assign to you such as Noss. FAQ: Will you give us learning guides for the final and quizzes? No. We are at the university level. If you do your readings, workbook learning enhancement exercises and attend
the lectures, then you should be fine. Unless I say so, everything that we discuss in class is material for tests/final. You will use scantron 289, the same type as for final examinations. You may want to make sure that you complete the relevant multiple choice questions in your workbook before taking any test. Since these scantrons are processed by computer, you MUST fill them out properly. If you do not, we will NOT mark them manually and you will be awarded a zero for that test.

3. Workbook (10%)- Your workbook is to assist you in self-assessment while reading the material in the class text, and to assess your writing skills as required in General Education courses. It has notes and materials that are not found in the course text. It also has learning enhancement questions taken from the same data bank that I will use when designing class tests and the final.

Starting from week 2, the teaching assistants and I will collect the workbooks and mark them thus:

a. We will see if you have completed the multiple choice questions, T/F, Matching, and one essay for the relevant chapter, as outlined in the COURSE SCHEDULE below. Please also note that the “learning enhancement” questions are designed to promote a proper reading of the assigned text. Since your answers ought to reflect such reading, you will be marked for completion of the assignment, and NOT for the correctness of your answers. You are encouraged to participate in groups and check each other’s answers. The teaching assistants will NOT, as a norm, correct your answers.

b. You will start this from the Introductory chapter completing all Multiple choice, T/F, Matching questions, and one and only one essay. Please just complete the essay in the Workbook or staple it in the Workbook. How long should the essay be? It should be a minimum of 150 spellchecked, grammatically correct words arranged in proper sentences.

d. Please note that because workbooks are used in each semester, we do NOT accept workbooks that have been copied since the answers would then be copied from another book.

e. Every time your name is called, and you choose NOT to hand in your workbook or are absent, your workbook score will be lessened by 5%. If this occurs three times, you will be issued a zero for this component.
f. Do note that we call names at random, and that means at OUR choice. If you are absent on week 4 that does not mean you can submit your book on week 5. IF—and only IF we ask for it, can you hand it in.

g. Given the large size of this class, it is possible we may only have the opportunity to collect your book ONCE. This means that it will be marked out of the full 10% when submitted. If you submit it on week three, and have NOT finished the assigned questions, you will lose marks. This does not mean that once your book is marked once you can stop answering questions. **We may choose to call your name again.** If you have NOT done the remaining chapters, you will lose marks. If you choose NOT to answer our call, you will lose five% off the mark you have previously obtained.

h. By the end of the semester, every book will have been marked at least once, and every student’s name being called at least three times. Any student, who has not, by this time, handed in a book for marking, will receive a zero for that component of the grade allotment.

4. **Final Exam (25%) - IN CLASS FINAL.** The format may be defining terms, multiple choice, sequencing, true or false, essays, and/or fill in the blank and WILL INCLUDE QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTERS COVERED SINCE DAY ONE OF THE CLASS. No late finals unless proof of a real emergency are offered. Vacations, work, normal illnesses such as a cold and flu not requiring hospitalization are not emergencies. FAQ: Will you give us learning guides for the final and quizzes? No. We are at the university level; If you do your readings, workbook learning enhancement exercises and attend the lectures, then you should be fine. Unless I say so, everything that we discuss in class is material for quizzes/exams. **The Final examination is elemental to successful course completion.** This means that, regardless of your performance in other components, if you miss the final, you will receive an automatic fail. Do note that there is a zero tolerance policy towards cheating. If you are caught, you will not be allowed to complete the examination in which you are sitting. If you are caught cheating in the final, you will receive an automatic fail grade. We will also, in accordance with university regulations, file a report with the relevant authorities.
**SDSU Grading Guidelines**  
Outstanding achievement; available only for the highest accomplishment.  
Praiseworthy performance; definitely above average.  
Average; awarded for satisfactory performance; the most common grade.  
Minimally passing; less than average achievement for undergraduate students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>70-73</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>59% or less</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Grade calculations**

All scores in this course are converted to percentages. The table here shows how we move from a percentage to a letter grade and then a grade point figure. This process is applied not only to the tests, projects, and accrued activity point totals but to the final grade as a whole. Please be advised that we do not automatically round up (e.g. 79.83% = C+ while 80% = B-).

**Extra credit** – None. Unless something truly momentous happens, plan on 0 extra credit.

**There will be no make-ups.** No incompletes will be given. (Verified emergencies provide the only exceptions to these policies.) Vacations, work, normal illnesses such as colds and flu not requiring hospitalization are not emergencies.

**Attendance, punctuality and withdrawals**
I take roll using our Workbook calls. While I do my best to formally drop students who stop attending class, it is ultimately your responsibility to withdraw from the course. Failure to do so may result in an unexpected F.

I strive to keep a positive learning environment in our classroom. Side conversations are rude and a distraction to the class, and therefore have no place in our classroom. Just as meaningful participation is rewarded, disruptive behavior will be penalized.

COURSE OUTLINE

Tentative. We may need to spend more time on a given topic. If so, changes to our outline will always be announced

Reading Assignments: I expect is for students to have read the chapter(s) we will be covering each meeting prior to posting your work. You are responsible for all material in the books, lectures, films, and handouts.

Week One

M: 8/29 Introductions

W 8/31 Mohammad Introduction: What is Religion (I will post this to Bb)

F 9/2 Please purchase the Mohammad book and workbook. You will need it next week. Read chapter one from the Noss book on Prehistoric Rel. which I provided for you on Bb in the Power Point section for Wednesday

Week Two

M 9/5 Holiday

W 9/7 Chapter One of Noss PDF in the Power Point section

 F 9/9 ONLINE: Complete the Syllabus Quiz by midnight Friday

Week Three

M 9/12 Chapter One Mohammed: Indigenous Religions

W 9/14 Chapter One: Indigenous Religions
F 9/16 Please review my mp4 lecture and complete Intro Workbook Quiz. It is the tiny first one and the Workbook Quiz on Indigenous Religions.

Week Four
M 9/19 **Test One on Noss and Mohammed: Introduction, Workbook material, Indigenous Religions.**

W 9/21 Matthews Chapter on Mesopotamia

F 9/23 Please review my mp4 on Mesopotamia, Africa, and more.

Week Five
M 9/26 Matthews Chapter on Africa

W 9/28 Matthews Chapter on the Greeks

F 9/30 Review for Test Two and listen my mp4 on the Greeks on Bb.

Week Six
M 10/3 **Test Two**: Matthews material on Mesopotamia, Egypt, Sub-Saharan Africa, Greece

W 10/5 Chapter Two Mohammad -- Hinduism

F 10/7 Review my mp4 lecture on Hinduism and complete Hinduism Workbook Quiz. We will be looking for this to be complete starting Monday

Week Seven
M 10/10 Hinduism Video in Class: Caste System

W 10/12 Hinduism

F 10/14 Preview Buddhism mp4 lecture for Monday & Complete Buddhism Quiz in Workbook.

Week Eight
M 10/17 Buddhism Video in class

W 10/19 Mohammed Chapter Three: Buddhism

F 10/21 Review mp4s on Hindus and Buddhists for test three Monday.

**Week Nine**

M 10/24 **Test Three on Hinduism and Buddhism**

W 10/26 Mohammed Chapter on Jains

F 10/28 Complete Workbook on Jains and listen to mp4 on Jains

**Week Ten**

M 10/31 Mohammed Chapter: Sikhs & Checking Workbooks up thru Jains

W 11/2 Mohammed Chapter: Daoism, Confucian, …China

F 11/4 Review mp4 on Sikhs and China. Complete Workbook up through China for checks starting Monday

**Week Eleven**

M 11/7 Confucius & Dao Continued

W 11/9 Mohammed Chapter Shinto – for Monday have all Workbook chapters through Shinto ready to begin being checked. Please be sure to have listened to the mp4 on Shinto.

F 11/11 **Holiday – Nothing due**

**Week Twelve**

M 11/14 Zoroastrianism & Checking workbooks up through Shinto

W 11/16 Mohammed: Judaism

Week Thirteen
M 11/21 Test four: Workbooks will begin being called for check on Quizzes up through Judaism

W 11/23 Holiday

F 11/25 Holiday

Week Fourteen:

M 11/28 Mohammed chapter Judaism

W 11/30 Mohammed Chapter Christianity

F 12/02 Review mp4 lectures on Christianity & complete Workbook Quiz on Christianity for checks beginning on Monday

Week Fifteen
M 12/05 Christianity: Workbook Check on quizzes up through Christianity

W 12/07 Mohammed: Islam

F 12/09 Review mp4 lecture on Islam & Complete Workbook thru Islam for last check on Monday

Week Sixteen

M 12/12 Islam Continued: LAST CHECK OF WORKBOOKS: UP THRU ISLAM

W 12/14 Review

F 12/16 IN CLASS FINAL EXAM: ON ALL MATERIAL SINCE DAY ONE

This syllabus is intended to guide us through the semester. However, circumstances may change and so I reserve the right to change the syllabus as needed to ensure that we fulfill the course objectives. You will receive full and fair notification regarding any such changes.
Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Academic Honesty
The University adheres to a strict policy regarding cheating and plagiarism. These activities will not be tolerated in this class. Become familiar with the policy (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html). Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failing this class and a disciplinary review by Student Affairs.

Examples of Plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work)
- Copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it your own
- Using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit
- Replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting your own words or phrases
- Submitting a piece of work you did for one class to another class

If you have questions on what is plagiarism, please consult the policy (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html) and this helpful guide from the Library: (http://infodome.sdsu.edu/infolit/exploratorium/Standard_5/plagiarism.pdf)

Turnitin
Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included. Another option is that you may request, in writing, that your papers not be submitted to Turnitin.com. However, if you choose this option you will be required to
provide documentation to substantiate that the papers are your original work and do not include any plagiarized material.

**Online Classroom Technical Support**
Contact Blackboard Collaborate Technical Support
- Available 24 hours/day - 7 days/week
- North America, Toll Free: 1 (877) 382-2293

Participate from a Mobile Device (iPhone / iPad)
- A [free mobile app for iOS devices](#) is available that allows you to participate directly from your iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad!
  Students are able to fully interact during the session:
  - View content and shared applications
  - Use emoticons
  - Connect directly from Blackboard on your mobile device

**Interacting with me**
I'll try to respond within 24-48 hours to emails sent me from within Blackboard. For quick questions, the turnaround time may be much shorter.
(If Blackboard is not working or for non-course-related communications, write to me using my outside email address: soandso@maxinet.com.)