PHIL 1401: Religions of the World
Meiklejohn Hall, Rm. 4075
Monday & Wednesday 2:00 – 3:50 PM
Professor Zayin Cabot, Ph.D.

Office: Mieklejohn Hall Rm 4007
Office Hours: Mondays 4 – 5 pm
Contact:
   e-mail: zayin.cabot@csueastbay.edu
   phone: 510.885.3546

Course Description
Comparative study of religions from around the world, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam, as well as various indigenous traditions.

Required Texts

Required Social Media
As part of this course you will need to sign up for an account with http://learni.st
This is an online educational social media site similar to pinterest and tmblr. We will be utilizing this site for a handful of shared group projects. You can also follow me at http://learni.st/users/zayincabot - I will update a series of “learning boards” on specific religious topics throughout the quarter.

Course Evaluation
   Reflection Papers 15%
   Weekly Quizzes 30%
   Lead Discussion 15%
   Group Presentation 10%
   Final Paper 30%

Participation
Students will be expected to attend all classes, having done the assigned readings ahead of time. A participation grade will be assigned according to their demonstrated level of informed engagement with the readings and classroom discussions and lectures. To earn participation grades, students must do the assigned readings, come to class, and demonstrate that they have done the readings through engagement in discussions or in asking relevant and informed questions either in class or during office hours.
Leading Class Discussion
You have been randomly assigned to a group of 2 to 3 students. As a group you will be responsible for helping guide discussion on the day you are assigned. You can find what group you have been assigned to on Blackboard.

When it is your turn to present, you will be asked to pay especially close attention to the readings for that week. You will also be asked to bring in images, songs, poems, interesting information about food, holidays, rituals, etc. I ask that you pay careful attention to people’s bodies. How do they dress, how do they engage their tradition (i.e., prayer, meditation, ritual, offerings), and what do their bodies look like when they are doing this? Who is participating? Are men, women, and/or children involved? Who is left out? We will speak more about this on the first day of class. This will be worth 15% of your total grade for the class, and will be graded both by students and myself.

As part of this project we will build a “learning board” through the educational website http://learni.st. You will need to upload images, writings, videos, etc. on our shared group site.

Weekly Reflection Paper
Each student will be expected to complete several reflection papers that will need to be turned in no later than midnight on Thursday of each week. The paper must be turned in through Turnitin, which you can access via our Blackboard page. There will be 4 reflection papers that count toward your grade. Extra papers can be turned in with the permission of the professor, and will be counted as extra credit.

Reflection papers can be based on readings, class discussion, important events in the news, and/or interview or personal communication. They can be written in a variety of creative ways, and should be 2-3 paragraphs in length. These can be written in any style that you like, including but not limited to dialogue, story, and/or poetic form. You can also make use of multimedia style presentations.

These papers account for 15% of your grade, and as such must be taken seriously. If you have any questions at all about these papers, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Final Paper
Each student will be expected to complete a final paper. Final papers will be due by midnight on Friday May 29th. Papers must be turned in through Turnitin, which can be accessed through our class Blackboard page. Students are encouraged to use materials from their reflection papers to write paper.

- Final paper will be argument driven and will be written on a predetermined group topic relating to Religions of the World. Students are free to choose their own particular angle for the paper, though they must frame it within the context of an argument. Do NOT simply relate the beliefs of a given tradition, but rather select a topic of interest and then argue a point one way or another, e.g., argue for/against:
We will form five to six different groups in the class that will engage particular issues in the study of religion. These may include, but are not limited to, globalization, politics, violence, gender, popular culture, secularism, and climate change. Groups will be chosen in the beginning weeks of class.

You will be graded on four separate aspects of this paper totalling 30% of your overall grade.

1. By May 8\textsuperscript{th} you must have uploaded two references related to the topic chosen by your particular group. These need to be uploaded on your group wiki, written out in proper MLA formatting, and you must also tell your group something about the piece and why you chose it. This will be worth 5% of your final grade.

2. On May 15\textsuperscript{th} you will be asked to turn in an opening paragraph complete with thesis statement. You will be graded on this both by myself and by your peers. This portion is worth 5% of your total grade.

3. On May 22\textsuperscript{nd} you will need to add at least two references found by your group to your working final paper in the form of two or three more paragraphs. You will be graded on this both by myself and by your peers. This portion is worth 5% of your total grade.

4. On May 28\textsuperscript{th} we will discuss the importance of a strong closing paragraph.

5. You will need to turn in a final paper on May 29\textsuperscript{th} (midnight). This portion is worth 15% of your total grade.

6. You will make a presentation as a group, leading class discussion on the topic you have chosen. These presentations will be on the last weeks of the course, and will count for 10% of your grade.

The paper must conform to the following requirements:

- Must include a bibliography, in proper style. Papers should include at least 2 separate academic sources.
- Must be submitted through Blackboard no later than May 29\textsuperscript{th}. Students submitting late papers should not expect to receive any grade for the assignment.
- All papers must be type-written and spell-checked.
- Students unsure of how to write a proper bibliography should consult a reference librarian at the university library. All references must be properly cited, whether they are books, articles, primary sources, or online material.

**Weekly Quizzes**

Weekly quizzes will be given in class. Quizzes will generally be given during Wednesday classes, but may also be given on Mondays. This is completely at to the discretion of the professor. These quizzes will test you on the readings for the week.

These quizzes are in lieu of mid-term and final exams and count for a significant percentage (30%) of your grade. **There will be no mid-term or final for this class.**
There are two ways to take the quizzes.
1. You write your answers on a piece of paper in class and hand them in.
2. You can answer the quiz online during class time. In order to do this you will need to log on to our class blackboard account.

Learning Outcomes
Courses in Letters examine significant written and/or oral texts of the creative intellect. The major goals are: (a) to teach the critical examination of ideas and theories through the use of historical, linguistic, literary, philosophical, and/or rhetorical approaches and methods; and (b) to encourage understanding of enduring human concerns and the intellectual and cultural traditions within which they arise.

1. Students will demonstrate through oral and written work how foundational works in the humanities illuminate enduring human concerns and the intellectual and cultural traditions within which these concerns arise, including both classical and contemporary artists and/or theorists.
2. Students will demonstrate a developing understanding of the interaction among historical and cultural contexts, individual works, and the development of humanities over time.
3. Through oral and written work, students will demonstrate their ability to critically employ concepts, theories, and methods of analysis used in the humanities to interpret and evaluate enduring human concerns.
4. Students will critically reflect on the formation of human goals and values, and will articulate an understanding of the creativity reflected in works of the humanities that influenced the formation of those values.

Classroom Policy
Certain rules of the classroom must be established from the outset in order to ensure that class can be conducted properly and without interruption. Certainly, to some these rules will seem obvious, but in order to prevent unwanted disruptions they must be outlined in any case. These rules are designed to make your jobs as students easier, as well as mine as instructor.

- **Cell phones** must be turned off in class. Any student whose cell phone rings during class will have 1% deducted from their final grade.
- There should be no talking during lectures. Students who wish to speak must raise their hand and wait to be called upon. Students who wish to carry on conversations should do so outside of the classroom.
- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and leave only once the class is finished. Students who are habitually late for class (without a valid reason) will be asked to drop the course. Students who may need to leave the classroom urgently (washroom, appointment, etc.) are asked to do so discreetly.
- Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating during a test or guilty of plagiarism in the completion of a written assignment will be subject to the penalties imposed by the university. Consult Section 3.9 of the
University Calendar.

- **Attendance.** I will take attendance in class, and students are strongly encouraged to attend all lectures. Where a participation grade is given, a lack of attendance will negatively affect your grade. Students who miss class are responsible for finding out what they have missed from other students.
Schedule of Classes  (NB: this schedule is subject to change)

Each class a randomly assigned group of 2 to 3 students will be required to bring materials to help lead part of discussion during class. See “Leading Class Discussions” above.

Additional supplementary readings may be assigned, and can be found on Blackboard

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Introduction Religion, Modernity, and the Body</td>
<td>READ: Modern contexts of religion</td>
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<td>7th - 9th</td>
<td>Hinduism &amp; Buddhism</td>
<td>READ: Hinduism (all) &amp; Buddhism pp. 68-78</td>
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<td>7th – Group 1 / 9th Group 2</td>
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<td>14th – 16th</td>
<td>Chinese Religions</td>
<td>READ: Buddhism 87 – 93 for Monday 21 &amp; Chinese Religions (all) for Wednesday</td>
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<td>14th Group 3 / 16th Group 4</td>
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<td>21st – 23rd</td>
<td>Japanese Religions</td>
<td>READ: Japanese religions</td>
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<td>21st group 5 / 23rd Group 6</td>
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<td>28th – 30th</td>
<td>Native American &amp; Hawaiian</td>
<td>READ: Native American Religions &amp; Reflections on Hawaiian Epistemology by Manulani Aluli Meyer</td>
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<td>28th Group 7 / 30th Group 8</td>
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<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<td>5th – 7th</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>READ: Religion in Africa &amp; TBA</td>
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<td>5th Group 9 / 7th Group 10</td>
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<td>12th - 14th</td>
<td>Judaism &amp; Christianity</td>
<td>READ: Judaism pp. 174- 78 &amp; Christianity</td>
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<td>12th Group 11 / 14th Group 12</td>
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<td>19th – 21st</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>READ: Islam</td>
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<td>19th Group 13 / 21st Group 14</td>
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<td><strong>Memorial Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 26th</strong></td>
<td>No School</td>
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<td><strong>May 28th</strong></td>
<td>Spiritual – not – Religious &amp; presentations</td>
<td>READ: Spirituality 320 – 29</td>
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June 2\textsuperscript{nd} – 4\textsuperscript{th} Presentations & Closing
READ: TBA