

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Winter Session 2013
840:212:01 (Hybrid Course) Religions of the Western World
In-Class Dates: 12/21 6:00-8:45 ED 025B, 1/3, 1/8, 1/10, 1/15, 1/17 9:00-11:35 am MU 112/CAC

Instructor: Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 134/DC **Office Hours:** before or after class, or by appointment **Email:** jdpavlin@rci.rutgers.edu

Course Description: The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to the academic study of religion by focusing on the monotheistic religions of the Near Eastern and Western traditions. After reviewing current methodologies and concepts related to the study of religion, the course will focus on the origin and development of the scriptures, beliefs and practices of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each religion will be studied with particular attention paid to readings of primary sources related to origins and historical developments in terms of theology, philosophy and mysticism.

SAS Core Code: Historical Analysis (HST), Social Analysis (SCL), Philosophical and Theoretical Issues (AHO)

Required Texts:

Ludwig, Theodore M. *The Sacred Paths of the West*. Upper Saddle River, NJ:
Pearson Education Inc., 2006.

Van Voorst, Robert E. *Anthology of World Scriptures: Western Religions*. Belmont, CA:
Thomson Wadsworth, 2007.

Learning Methods and Resources: This class is designed as a hybrid course. Much of the work, including reading, discussions, and test taking, will be done online. The limited classroom experience will be utilized to enhance online learning by evaluating the online learning process and engaging in traditional face to face conversation. The course material and work will operate through the use of Rutgers' web based interactive technology called Sakai. All students are required to know how to use Sakai. The site will contain announcements, assignments, tests and quizzes, recommended resources, chat room, discussion board, and grades, among other things. Student self-discipline and motivation to participate daily in the online sessions cannot be over emphasized. You must truly be an active learner to benefit from (and pass) the course.

Core Curriculum Goals: This course fulfills the following core curriculum goals.

- H. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- K. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- L. Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.
- M. Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.
- N. Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.
- O. Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade): The in-class meetings are vital to the success of the hybrid course. Students are expected to attend each class on time and contribute to class discussions. Attendance will be taken for each class. This portion of the grade is worth five points. Any unexcused absences will result in a reduction of this part of the student's grade by one point per unexcused absence. Students who encounter any extended problem with absences, for example, for medical, family emergency, or religious reasons, must inform me in writing (email acceptable) about the reason and duration of the absence. Decisions on excused absences will be made on a case-by-case basis. Extended absences may require the student to do extra written assignments.

Classroom Etiquette and Netiquette: The use of lap tops is permitted only for purposes related to the course. (If I notice excessive giggling, I will assume you are not looking at course related material!) All cell phones, iPods, and any other hand held devices are strictly forbidden during class. Violation of this policy will result in your being requested to leave the class and receiving an unexcused absence. Respectful speech is required at all times, in class and in the various Sakai forums. Disputes and disagreements are expected, but vulgar and insulting language will not be tolerated. All Sakai forums will be monitored for compliance.

2) Discussion Forums (20% of final grade): The discussion forums are the most important aspects of the hybrid course in the sense of comprehending the subject matter. There are eleven forums for this course. Most of the content discussion will take place in these forums. Students are therefore required to contribute to the Discussion Board on Sakai. These are meant to be an open, threaded conversation about various topics related to the course. Students' posts will be graded based on your understanding of the reading assignments and the development of ideas through interaction in the forums with the professor and other students. You will receive up to 3 points for the first four forums and 4 points for the other seven forums.

3) Quizzes (40% of final grade): Multiple choice, true-false, or essay quizzes will occur on a regular basis to test the students' grasp of ideas and concepts under discussion. The quizzes will be made available on Sakai: Tests and Quizzes. Quizzes will be made available for a 24-hour period according to the schedule below. Once you begin the quiz, you will have a time limit to complete it, ranging from 40 to 60 minutes. If you submit an uncompleted quiz by mistake, you must contact me. I will determine if you deserve to retake the quiz.

4) Three tests (each test is 10% of final grade): The tests will be multiple choice questions related to the three major religions we are covering. The multiple choice questions will be based on the key terms and concepts at the end of each chapter or section in both textbooks. The students must understand these terms in the context of the readings and online/class discussions. The tests will be online through the Sakai Tests and Quizzes link. Should it be necessary, make up exams will be given to students having a valid excuse for not taking the online test.

Grading Policy: All final grades will be calculated according to the Rutgers' grading system. Letter grades and numerical grades on a scale of 100 to 65 will be converted to the point system as follows: 4.0 = A (100-90), 3.5 = B+ (89-85), 3.0 = B (84-80), 2.5 = C+ (79-75), 2.0 = C (74-70), 1.0 = D (69-65), 0.0 = F (64 and below). For the purpose of quizzes, tests, and papers, as applicable to each course, a grade of A- (90-92) will be used and is equivalent to 3.8 points. An incomplete ("T" grade)

for this course will not be given unless the student consults with me about the reason for not completing the course work on time. Grades that appear in the Sakai Gradebook are close estimations of your grade. I reserve the right to adjust and override these grades as I deem necessary. All final grades are based on my assessment of your work.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

12/21 Mandatory In-class Meeting
Introduction to the hybrid course and Sakai
Perspectives on the Religious Path, Ludwig, ch. 1

12/26 Online Session 1
Beginnings of the Human Religious Adventure, Ludwig, ch. 2
Religions of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece, Ludwig, ch. 4

Sakai: Discussion Forum 1: Ludwig chs. 2 & 4: Opens: 12/26 6:00 am - Closes: 1/3 8:00 am. Using the discussion questions and key terms on pp. 33 & 81 as guidelines, engage in conversations about relevant issues related to any information from the chapters.

12/27 Online Session 2
Western Scriptures among the World's Religions, Van Voorst, ch. 1

Sakai: Discussion Forum 2: Van Voorst ch. 1: Opens: 12/27 6:00 am - Closes: 1/3 8:00 am. Using the glossary and discussion questions on pp. 19-20 as guidelines, engage in conversations about relevant issues related to any information from the chapters.

12/28 Online Session 3
Zoroastrian Tradition, Ludwig, ch. 5
Zoroastrianism, Van Voorst, ch. 2

Sakai: Discussion Forum 3: Ludwig ch. 5, Van Voorst ch. 2: Opens: 12/28 6:00 am - Closes: 1/3 8:00 am. Using the discussion questions and key terms or glossary in Ludwig, pp. 93-94, and in Van Voorst, pp. 34-35, as guidelines, engage in conversations about relevant issues related to any information from the chapters.

12/28-1/3 Quizzes 1 & 2

Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Quiz 1 Ludwig chs. 1, 2, & 4: open from 12/28 6:00 am to 1/3 8:00 am; 33 multiple choice/true-false questions, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Quiz 2 Van Voorst chs. 1 and 2, Ludwig ch. 5: open from 12/28 6:00 am to 1/3 8:00 am; 33 multiple choice/true-false questions, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

1/2 Online Session 4
Origins of Judaism, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 95-99, Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 37-45 (Introduction), 46-49 (Call of Abraham, Call of Moses, Crossing at Red Sea, Covenant with Israel), 69 (Establishment of Circumcision)

Sakai: Discussion Forum 4: Ludwig ch. 6 to p. 99 and Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/2 6:00 am - Closes: 1/8 8:00 am. Engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.

- 1/3 Mandatory In-class Meeting
The Kingdom of Israel and the Rise of Rabbinic Judaism, Ludwig, ch. 6, pp. 99-114; Van Voorst, ch. 3, pp. 66 (Ordination of Priests), 60 (Holy War), 49 (Psalm for David), 55 (Messianic King), 67-68 (Call to be a Prophet and Women as Judges and Prophets), 63 (God's call to an Unfaithful People), 50 (Ezra's Enforcement of *Torah* Observance), 75-76 (Chain of Rabbinic Tradition and Replacement of Sacrifice by Study), 78 (Why Judaism Survives under Persecution)

Quiz 3 (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch. 6, Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Open from 1/3 12:01 pm to 1/6 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

- 1/4 Online Session 5
God, Creation, Sin, Repentance, and Transformation, Ludwig, ch. 7, Van Voorst, Ch. 3, pp. 51 (Oneness of God), 52-54 (God's Creation of the World and Revolt of Humanity), 55 (Prayer for Divine Deliverance) 57-60 (Ten Commandments, Laws on Slaves, Violence, and Property, and Justice for All), 56-57 (Final Judgment of the World and Resurrection of the Dead)

Sakai: Discussion Forum 5: Ludwig ch. 7, Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/4 6:00 am - Closes: 1/8 8:00 am. Engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.

- 1/7 Online Session 6
Ritual Life and Observing the Law in Family and Society, Ludwig, Ch. 8, Van Voorst, Ch. 3, pp. 71-72 (Observance of the Sabbath, Offerings for the Forgiveness of Sin, and Day of Atonement), 70 (Establishment of the Passover), 73 (Kosher and Nonkosher Foods), 61 (Sexual Love), 65 (Virtuous Wife), 77 (Duty to Mary and Have Children)

Sakai: Discussion Forum 6: Ludwig ch. 8, Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/6 6:00 am - Closes: 1/8 8:00 am. Engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.

Quiz 4 (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch. 7, Van Voorst ch. 3 (assigned readings): Open from 1/6 6:00 am to 1/10 8:00 am; essay question, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

1/8 Test One (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Judaism Test: Open from 1/8 12:01 pm to 1/10 8:00 am; 50 question multiple choice/true-false test, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

- 1/8 Mandatory In-class Meeting
Origins of Christianity, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 143-150, Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 83-90 (Introduction), 90 (Birth of Jesus), 91 Jesus' Miracles), 98 (Parables of Jesus), 103 (Sermon on the Mount), 92 (Arrest, Trial, and Death of Jesus), 94 (Resurrection of Jesus and Ascension of Jesus)

1/9 Online Session 7

The Early Church, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 150-160; Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp., 95 (Coming of the Holy Spirit), 111 (Twelve Apostles and Their Mission), 96 (Persecution of the Apostles), 97 (Council at Jerusalem), 117 (Scripture Canon in Formation), 119-123 (Early Noncanonical Jesus tradition, Gnostic Christianity and Orthodox Christianity, and Women and Gnosticism), 112-113 (*Matthew's* Church Order and Peter as the Rock), 125 (Papal Primacy), 110 (Fall of Rome)

Sakai: Discussion Forum 7: Ludwig ch. 9 pp. 150-160, Van Voorst ch. 4 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/9 6:00 am - Closes: 1/13 11:59 pm. Engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.

Quiz 5 (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch. 9 to p. 160, Van Voorst ch. 4 (assigned readings): Open from 1/9 6:00 am to 1/13 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

1/10 Mandatory In-class Meeting

Reformation and Modern Christianity, Ludwig, ch. 9, pp. 160-164

Christian Ideas on Salvation and Christ as Redeemer, Ludwig, ch. 10, Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 99 (Divine Word Became Human), 99-100 (Nicodemus Visits Jesus and A sinful Woman is Forgiven), 101 (Results of Justification), 102 (End of Time)

Quiz 6 (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Ludwig ch. 10, Van Voorst ch. 4 (assigned readings): Open from 1/10 6:00 am to 1/13 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

1/11 Online Session 8

Ritual Practices and the Good Life, Ludwig, ch. 11, Van Voorst, ch. 4, pp. 115-117 (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confession and Anointing), 114 (Women in the Early Church), 108 (Love), 107 (Directions concerning Marriage), 109 (Ethics in the Christian Household)

Sakai: Discussion Forum 8: Ludwig ch. 11, Van Voorst ch. 4 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/11 6:00 am - Closes: 1/13 11:59 pm. Engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.

Test Two (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Christianity Test: Open from 1/11 6:00 am to 1/15 8:00 am; 50 question multiple choice/true-false test, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

1/14 Online Session 9

Origins of Islam and Biography of Muhammad, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 196-204; Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 129-134 (Introduction), 134-135 (Call of Muhammad), 146-147 (The Holy Qur'an), 136-137 (Mission of Muhammad and Opposition to Muhammad), 138 (The Night Journey), 139 (Flight to Medina); 138 (The Hypocrites), 148-150 (On Unbelievers, Jews, and Christians), 156 (Different Dimensions of Struggle), 140 (Death of Muhammad)

Sakai: Discussion Forum 9: Ludwig ch. 12, pp. 196-204, Van Voorst ch. 5 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/14 6:00 am - Closes: 1/17 8:00 am. Engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.

1/15 Mandatory In-class Meeting
Medieval Islamic World, Ludwig, ch. 12, pp. 204-219 and ch. 14, p. 241 (section on Basic Principles of the Shari'ah) Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 167-170 (A Sunni Creed), 170-171 (A Shi'ite Creed), 171-172 (Sufi Poetry on Love for God)

Quiz 7 (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Quiz 7 Ludwig ch. 12, Van Voorst ch. 5 (assigned readings): Open from 1/15 6:00 am to 1/18 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

1/16 Online Session 10
God, Humanity, and Salvation in Islam, Ludwig, ch. 13, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 141-143 (God's Absolute Oneness, God's Names, God's Power, and God's Predestination), 144-146 (Creation and Adam, Eve, and the Fall), 150-152 (Resurrection and Judgment and Heaven and Hell);

Sakai: Discussion Forum 10: Ludwig ch. 13, Van Voorst ch. 5 (assigned readings): Opens: 1/16 6:00 am - Closes: 1/17 8:00 am. Engage in conversations about relevant issues related to the assigned readings from both textbooks.

Quiz 8 (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Quiz 8 Ludwig ch. 13, Van Voorst ch. 5 (assigned readings): Open from 1/16 6:00 am to 1/18 11:59 pm; essay question, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

1/17 Mandatory In-class Meeting
Ritual Practices and the Good Life for Muslims, Ludwig, ch. 14, Van Voorst, ch. 5, pp. 158-163 (all reading in section on Worship and Ritual), 154-155 (Women);

Test Three (Sakai: Tests & Quizzes: Islam Test: Open from 1/17 12:01 pm to 1/18 11:59 pm; 50 question multiple choice/true-false test, 1 hr. 20 min. time limit.

1/18 Online Session 11
Open discussion forum to answer any questions on Islam; completion of quizzes and test for Islam.