

**840:212 Religions of the Western World Tuesday (only) 10:55--12:15**  
Room: HSB 204 HYBRID

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Bishop  
Dept. of Religion: Religion.Rutgers.edu  
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**In-class meetings (8):**

9/1 --Intro: Early religion & Mediterranean cultures ; Van Voorst, chap. 1- 2, Ludwig chap, 2 & 4	
9/22 Judaism:, Ludwig 5, 6, 7	Forum 1 due 10/11
10/13, Judaism: Van Voorst, chap. 3	Exam One: 10/16-17 (4 chapters)
10/27, Christianity:, Ludwig 8,9, 10	Forum 2 due 11/1
11/3, Christianity: Van Voorst chap. 4	Exam Two: 11/6-7 (4 chapters)
11/17 Islam:, Ludwig 11,12,13	
12/1, Islam Van Voorst, chap. 5	Forum 3 due 12/6
12/8 LDS, Ba'hai, scriptures of new rm	Exam Three: 12/11-12 (5 chapters)

**Online EXAMS: 10/16-17, 11/6-7, 12/11-12**

**Course Description** This course will begin with the “how” and “why” of religion as the text explores the origin, history and philosophy of religion in the West. We will then begin with one of the earliest monotheistic religions—Zoroastrianism--and move from there to the most well known monotheistic religions still extant today: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. These traditions, known collectively as “Religions of the Book” and “The Abrahamic Traditions,” will be studied in dialogue with the sacred texts of each religion. Students will emerge from this class with a general knowledge of these great traditions and how they relate to one another. The course will conclude with the study of new religious movements such as Ba’hai and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and examine their link to the Abrahamic Traditions.

*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*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007

**Course requirements:**

1. *Attendance:* Attendance at all 8 in-class meetings is crucial to the student’s success in the course. Only excused absences are acceptable. Class participation grade will be adversely affected due to absence.
2. *Participation:* The course schedule is designed to permit the opportunity for extended discussion and I will expect it. This means DO THE READING assigned for that day, otherwise you will not be able to make a contribution.
3. *Forum:* In order to accomplish the online participation, students must post to SAKAI forum and respond to another student's post. Forum content TBA.

Together, these three requirements will make up 25% of your grade. No A is possible without them.

3 Exams—25% each ( total 75% of grade)

