

**Bowie State University**  
School of Arts and Sciences  
**Department of History & Government**

**Course Syllabus and Schedule of Learning Activities**

**Course: Survey of World Religions** (3 Credits)

**Course # & Section:** Philosophy 206

**Schedule:**

**Class Location:**

**Off. Hrs:**

**Instructor:**

**Office Bldg.:** MLK Bldg., Rm 0207

**Office Phone:** (301) 860-3611

**E-Mail:**

**Course Description:** This course is a multicultural survey of the religions of the world, including Native American religions, African religions, and religions originating in India, China, Japan, and the Middle East. Students will attain an understanding of different spiritual perspectives toward being in the world and death.

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**The Required Texts:**

Fisher, Mary Pat. (2002). *Living Religions*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall.

Hopfe, Lewis M. & Mark R. Woodward. (2001). *Religions of the World*. Upper Saddle, N.J.: Prentice-Hall.

Reading of some national newspapers: *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Additional reading assignments will be placed in the Reserve Collection of the Thurgood Marshall Library at Bowie State University.

**Disability Policy Statement for Accommodations:** Students with any form of disability and would like to be considered for accommodations should immediately communicate their interests to Dr. Michael S. Hughes [Coordinator of Disability Support Services (DSS) & Academic Advisement Specialist]. His office in the new Business/Graduate Studies Building (Room 1328), and he can be reached (301) 860-4067. It is also important to share such an interest or desire for ADA assistance with the instructor of the course.

**Instructional Modes:** The methods would include these graded learning activities:

- traditional lectures with assigned readings and handouts to illuminate/challenge students
- in-class/online participation/discussions and study group/collaborative presentations
- viewing and interpretive analysis of the relevant/appropriate CD/Video-tapes
- written assignments (an essay, two quizzes, two examinations, extra-credit projects), and
- (possibly) inviting outside professionals and experts as guest lecturers or speakers.

**Learning Objectives:** The course objectives are as follows:

1. To introduce the students to different religions of the world
2. To expose students to the different spiritual perspectives, modes of worship and rituals
3. To provide scholarly instructions in comparative study and analysis of world religions
4. To guide students toward a systematic search of the significant aspects of religions
5. To enable students develop an appreciation for the critical role of religions in life.

**Students Requirements:**

A) Attendance

1. Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually
2. Students are required to sign the role at each class session, and a record of attendance will be maintained; and
3. It is the responsibility of the students to make up all work missed during any period of absence.

B) Quizzes and Examinations

1. Quizzes will be given based on readings and lectures. There will be no make-up quizzes
2. Unit examinations will be announced a week before they are administered. There will be no make-up unit examinations.

C) Class Participation

1. Students will be required to participate in class discussions.

**Evaluation**

A) Methods

Examinations, quizzes, term papers, oral presentations and class participation will be used in evaluating the performance of students.

1. Students will be given three unit examinations. The lowest unit score will be dropped in the computation of the final grade
2. Students will be given seven quizzes, five of which will be 20% of the final grade
3. Students will be required to take the mid-semester and the final examinations
4. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled
5. Term Paper and Oral Presentation
  - a) Each student will be required to submit a term paper of no more than 12 pages long; typed with double-spacing
  - b) Students will be required to select topics from a list provided by the instructor
  - c) An outlined of each paper is required; and
  - d) Students will be required to give oral presentations of their papers in-class.
6. Term Paper Procedures and Deadlines: Students are required to follow these procedures and deadlines in completing their term papers:

Procedures

Deadlines

Selection of Topic  
Submission of Outline  
Submission of Draft  
Submission of Final Copy

**Note:** Deadlines will be strictly enforced

7. The Oral Presentations of the term papers will be evaluated as follows:

a) Clarity of thesis statement	5%
b) Organization and coherence of presentation	15%
c) Conclusion & Evaluation	5
<u>Total:</u>	<u>20%</u>

8. Term Papers will be graded as follows:

a) Clarity of thesis statement	5%
b) Organization & coherence	15%
c) Depth of research demonstrated by citations & analysis	40%

d) Footnotes & Endnotes format	10%
e) Bibliography format	10%
f) Oral presentation	20%
<u>Total:</u>	<u>100%</u>

B) Grading Scale and Distribution of Percentages

1. First Unit Exam	10%
2. Second Unit Exam	10%
3. Mid-Term Exam	15%
4. Final Exam	15%
5. Quizzes	20%
6. Term Paper	20%
7. Class Participation	10%

The numerical equivalents of the letter grades are as follows:

- 90+ = A
- 80+ = B
- 70+ = C
- 60+ = D
- 50+/- = F.

**Some Important Announcements: Information & Dates:**

**English Proficiency Examination:** After completing ENGL 101 and 102, Composition and Literature I and II, students must take and successfully pass the Bowie State University English Proficiency Examination. Transfer students who completed their English composition requirements at another university should take the English Proficiency Examination during their first semester of enrollment at the University.

**Technical Assistance:** For technical questions or instructions, please call (301) 860-4357 or (301) 860-HELP and someone, possibly Mrs. Mariann Hawken (the Blackboard Administrator), will help you. For additional information, check and click on the Tech/OIT Support via the Course Menu.

**Inclement Weather:** In cases of inclement weather, please tune in to a local radio or television station and also monitor for BSU announcements. The area media may announce whether BSU will be opened or closed, but such an announcement depends on the severity and degree of weather inclemency. Many of these sources will begin announcing late openings and closings by 6:00 a.m. Consult university publications for the information or call (301) 860-4000.

**Units of Instruction & Schedule of Learning Activities with Reading Assignments**

<b>Weeks/Dates</b>	<b>Learning Modules &amp; Objectives</b>	<b>Required Reading Assignments</b>
<b>Weeks 1-2:</b>	<p><b>Module One:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Course Overview</li> <li>b) Students' Responsibilities</li> <li>c) Introduction Overview</li> <li>d) The Religious Response</li> </ul>	<p>Read the following: Hopfe &amp; Woodward, pp. 1-12 Fisher, Mary P., pp. 16-43</p>
<b>Weeks: 3-6:</b>	<p><b>Module Two:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Basic Religions</li> <li>b) Indigenous Sacred Ways</li> <li>c) Native American Religions</li> <li>d) African Religions</li> </ul>	<p>Hopfe &amp; Woodward, pp. 13-28 Fisher, Mary P., pp. 44-78 Hopfe &amp; Woodward, pp. 29-48 Fisher, Mary P., pp. 49-69</p>
<b>Weeks 7-8:</b>	<p><b>Module Three:</b> Religions from India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hinduism</li> <li>• Jainism</li> <li>• Buddhism</li> <li>• Sikhism</li> </ul>	<p>Hopfe &amp; Woodward, pp. 70-167</p>
<b>Wks 9-13</b>	<p><b>Module 4:</b> Religions from the Middle East Zoroastrianism Judaism Christianity Islam Baha'i</p>	<p>Hopfe &amp; Woodward, pp. 220-378</p>
<b>Wks 14-15:</b>	<p><b>Module 5:</b> Religions from China &amp; Japan: Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto</p>	<p>Hopfe &amp; Woodward, pp. 168-218</p>

Bibliography