



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**GE2253 World Religions**  
**Winter 2023**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Mr. Doug Harkness**  
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## ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

This course will ground students in a biblical worldview of religion. Students will become acquainted with basic beliefs and practices of major world religions, preparing them for understanding and effective evangelism.

## ***COURSE TEXTBOOK***

Farhadian, Charles E. *Introducing World Religions A Christian Engagement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015.

The Bible (a translation, not a paraphrase). Suggested translations are CSB, ESV, NIV, NKJV, NLT, NASB...

*NOTE: The course outline is available for download on the NBC website.*

## ***THE BIG QUESTION***

What are the foundations, basic beliefs, and practices of the major religions of the world?

## ***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

1. Students will understand the biblical foundations of religion.
2. Students will apply this understanding to major world religions as expressions of what it is to be distinctly human (created in the image of God).
3. Students will gain a basic understanding of the major beliefs and practices of the religions under consideration.
4. Students will gain insight into the challenges and opportunities related to reaching people of other religions with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## ***COURSE ASSIGNMENTS***

### **Textbook Quizzes – 5 x 4% per quiz (20% total)**

- Five quizzes will cover material in the textbook reading as assigned in the Course Outline below.
- Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class.

- Each quiz will include a memory verse (see Course Outline below).
  - The student may use their own preferred translation for the memory verse.
  - There are no marks awarded for the memory verses.
  - One mark will be deducted for each memory verse not done correctly.
- The **Reading Bonus Quiz** (Tue., Jan. 31) is an opportunity for students to increase their reading quiz score to the maximum (20%).

***DUE: See Course Schedule***

### **Group Project (Paper & Presentation) - 30%**

- Students will be divided into groups. Each group will collaborate on a comprehensive project investigating the beliefs and practices of one major world religion.
- The report will include:
  - The origin of the religion (founder, location, circumstances).
  - How the religion reflects the human condition.
  - How the religion addresses human spiritual need.
  - The authority and structure of the religion (who leads; how is the position filled; how is it enforced).
  - The religion's core beliefs and practices.
  - Its global distribution.
  - Major variations (sects, factions, sub-groups) within the religion.
  - Comparisons with Christianity.
  - Opportunities and obstacles for the Gospel.
  - A bibliography.
- Students will present their work to the class on the date that will be assigned, and provide a written copy to the instructor on the day of the presentation.
- Each member of the group must be actively involved in both the research and the class presentation.
- Only one written document needs to be submitted for the group, but the names of all members must be on the cover page, indicating clearly which section(s) each member contributed to the project.
- The written report will be no less than 5 pages per student (i.e. a group of 3 students will provide a minimum of 15 pages; a group of 5 will provide a minimum of 25 pages).
- The report should include a title page.

***DUE: As assigned***

### **Interview Regarding a Personal ("Insiders") View of a World Religion - 25%**

- Students will conduct an interview with someone of another faith (currently practicing or former adherent, but someone who is able to articulate the views and beliefs of that faith from personal experience), write a 4-page report (double-spaced), and present their findings in class.
- The report will include pertinent details such as:
  - What it is to be an adherent of the \_\_\_\_\_ religion.

- Their view of the human condition.
- Their relationship to deity (personal, immediate interaction or impersonal, distant, . . .).
- The existence, origin and nature of evil.
- What constitutes sin and how it is dealt with.
- The ultimate destiny, and personal goals of adherents (heaven, perfection, oblivion, ...), and how adherents try to achieve them.
- How success is measured.
- How adherents view outsiders (fearing, resenting, welcoming, tolerating, proselytizing, avoiding. . .).
- Their view of Jesus Christ.
- Personal takeaways (of the student, from the interview).
- Recommendations from the student (for reaching adherents of this religion with the Gospel), as well as appropriate reflections by the student including, "How does this religion express the fundamental spiritual aspect of being human?" (i.e., don't just report facts!).
- This interview can be done in person, phone call, or by Zoom.
- The report should include a title page.

***Paper DUE: Tuesday, March 21, 2023***  
***Class Report DUE: As assigned***

### **Final Exam - 25%**

- The final exam will consist of multiple choice, true or false, short answer, and essay questions inclusive of all material covered in class and assigned reading.

***DUE: TBA***

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. **(See NBC Sample Paper - 2022.)** Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due at the **beginning of class** on the date assigned.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

### **LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

### **Reading: 348 pages**

**Writing: 9 pages** (5 per person for the combined group report – one report per group; and 4 for the Interview report).

**Class Format:** Instruction; group and individual presentations.

**Bring:** A Bible, notebook, and textbook.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Class	Date	Topic	Evaluative Assignment Due	Homework to be Assigned
1	1	Tue, Jan 17	Syllabus & Introduction; Biblical Foundations of Religion		
	2	Fri, Jan 20			Read: Chapter 1 (pp.1-58)
2	3	Tue, Jan 24	Aberrations: Manifestations, Distortions & Substitutes	<b>Reading Quiz #1 (Chapter 1)</b>	
	4	Fri, Jan 27			Read: Chapter 7 (pp.307-352)
3	5	Tue, Jan 31	Components of Religion	<b>Reading Bonus Quiz (Chapter 7)</b>	
	6	Fri, Feb 3			Read: Chapter 8 (pp.353-414)
4	x	Tue, Feb 7	ReNew Day – No classes		
	7	Fri, Feb 10	Core Beliefs	<b>Reading Quiz #2 (Chapter 8)</b>	
5	8	Tue, Feb 14			
	9	Fri, Feb 17	Animism		Read: Chapter 2 (pp.59-114)
	x	Tue, Feb 21	Mid-Semester Break – No classes		
	x	Fri, Feb 24			
6	10	Tue, Feb 28		<b>Reading Quiz #3 (Chapter 2)</b>	
	11	Fri, Mar 3	Hinduism		

7	12	Tue, Mar 7			Read: Chapter 3 (pp.115-174)
	x	Fri, Mar 10	Three60five Sr – No classes		
8	13	Tue, Mar 14	Buddhism	<b>Reading Quiz #4 (Chapter 3)</b>	
	14	Fri, Mar 17			Read: Chapter 5 (pp.215-252)
9	15	Tue, Mar 21	Sikhism	<b>Interview Paper Due</b>	
	16	Fri, Mar 24			Read: Chapter 9 (pp.415-466)
10	17	Tue, Mar 28	Islam	<b>Reading Quiz #5 (Chapter 9)</b>	
	18	Fri, Mar 31			
11	19	Tue, Apr 4	Interview Reports		
	x	Fri, Apr 7	Good Friday no classes		
	20	Tue, Apr 8	Interview Reports		
		TBA		<b>Final Exam</b>	