

## SYLLABUS

Birmingham Theological Seminary  
2200 Briarwood Way  
Birmingham, AL 35243  
205-776-5650

Fall 2010  
AP8531 World Religions  
Professor: Rev. Clete Hux  
Class Hours: 2

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### COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to instruct the student on the beliefs and practices of the major world religions. This will include Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Judaism, the New Age, and other World Faiths. Instruction will equip the student to evaluate each of these in light of biblical theology.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to understand the belief structures of the major world religions.
2. The student will be able to discuss with the adherents of these religions, the differences of these religions and biblical theology.
3. The student will be able to make an effective case for a biblical worldview contrasted to these religions.
4. The student will become more confident in fulfilling the Great Commission to people in these religions.

### COURSE TEXTS

#### **Required Texts:**

Halverson, Dean C. *The Illustrated Guide to World Religions*. Bethany House. ISBN 0-7642-2838-2

#### **Collateral Texts:**

Halverson, Dean C. *The Compact Guide to World Religions*. Bethany House. ISBN 1-55661-704-6

Corduan, Winifried. *Neighboring Faiths*. Intervarsity Press. ISBN 0-8308-1524-4

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading assignment on time.
3. Apologetic Verbatims. Each student will write two reports of an apologetic/evangelical encounter on two different topics/issues (discussed in class) with adherents of a different religion. Further instruction will be provided.
4. Write a term paper. This should be a 10-15 page research paper on the topic of special interest related to the course. At least five-seven reference works other than your textbooks should be included. Paper should contain: title page, table of contents, introduction, research question, discussion, conclusion and bibliography.
5. Mid-term and/or final exam.

## **GRADING**

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading and ability to participate in discussion 10%
3. Two apologetic verbatims are worth 20% each for a total of 40%
4. Term paper 25%
5. Final grade 25%

## **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

NOTE: All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

All course materials must be submitted to the professor at the end of the semester (last day of class). Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six week grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

### **Selected Bibliography**

Braswell, George W. Jr. *What You Need to Know about Islam and Muslims*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2000.

Burnett, David. *The Spirit of Buddhism*. Mill Hill, Grand Rapids: Monarch Books, 2003.

Ellwood, Robert S., Jr. *Many Peoples, Many Faiths*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1996.

Fellows, Ward J. *Religions East and West*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1999.

Kung, Hans. *Christianity and the World Religions*. Garden City: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1974.

Noss, John B. *Man's Religions*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1994.

Viladesau, Richard and Mark Massa. *World Religions: A Sourcebook for Students of Christian Theology*. New York: Paulist Press, 1994.