

SPRING 2013 WORLD RELIGION 3308 B53

“The lamps are many, but the Light is One; look, therefore, to the Light.” Jalal al-Din Rumi

Professor: Dr. Linnea Pearson—Office hours before/after class/ adjacent to ACI 301, ext.5859

This course serves as an introduction to several of the world’s great religious traditions to prepare FIU students to become “citizens of the world.” Part of the course requirement is to visit the sanctuary and services of a religion other than your own, so if your religious tradition does not allow you to do this, this course is not for you!

We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 5-7:45 p.m. in AC I Room 135 on the Biscayne Bay Campus. Our class time together is sacrosanct, an opportunity for us to learn from each other and to engage in the educational process within a supportive and caring community. The classroom interaction is a vital part of this learning experience and thus class attendance is mandatory (except in cases of illness or family emergency). If you don’t wish to engage in such a process, on-line courses are available. **If you do wish to engage, you will enjoy the process!**

Required Texts: The World’s Religions, Huston Smith and God Is Not One, Stephen Prothero. Also: Gandhi, Louis Fischer (AmzPrime \$8), The Tao Te Ching, Stephen Mitchell translation/illustrated (AmzPrime\$10), Siddhartha, Hesse (AmzPrime\$3.50). Note: Your professor studied with Huston Smith while a student at Harvard Divinity School; Dr. Smith was teaching World Religion at M.I.T. in Cambridge, Mass. Prothero teaches at Boston University.

Basic class requirements: class attendance=40% of final grade; a one-page typed paper at each class summarizing your learning from the previous class= 10%; a class presentation on your visit (with your assigned group) to another religious institution=10%; a final exam=20%; a final 10-page paper, typed/double-spaced, PMLA guidelines, connecting your visit with this class=20%. **You are required to submit a manila file folder** with your photo ID attached to the upper right hand corner and your name printed, last name first, to hold your weekly papers.

Because inter-personal interaction is so vital to this course, lap-tops and cell-phones must be turned off during class time; there will be a break about 6:45 p.m. for cell-phone use.

Shortly after our first class meeting, a more annotated Class Syllabus will be offered in response to the specific needs of the students and to assure best use of our time together.

“NAMASTE!” (This ancient Sanskrit greeting means: “I honor the divine in you that honors the divine in me.”) The “divine” is that which links us to the Whole or Holy: the Inter-Related Web of All Existence. **Hopefully, we will** remember to begin and end each class with this greeting!

ADDENDUM TO SPRING 2013 SYLLABUS FOR WORLD RELIGION 3308 B53 –Dr. Linnea Pearson

2-13—Review of Last Class; Review of Inter-Faith Service; Preview of Coming Attractions: the New and Revised Syllabus for the Rest of the Semester; Begin Consideration of Site Visit. Turn in paper reflecting on last class session on Introductory Judaism with Mr. Andrew Susman.

2-20—Re-Read Huston Smith’s “Primal Religions” and his teachings on “Hinduism” (noting the systems of 4: castes, yogas, classes, stages of life, scriptures, and the TRIMURTI) and contrast with Prothero’s thoughts about Hinduism, pp. 131-144 and 159-168 (or more, if you wish) and compare/contrast Smith’s “Point of Departure” (pp. 1-11) with Prothero’s “Introduction” (1-24).

2-27 –Read both authors on “Buddhism” and read Herman Hesse’s novel Siddhartha. Turn in paper reflecting on principal points discussed in last class on Hinduism and the differences in attitude between Smith and Prothero

3-6—Read both authors on Islam. Do you agree with the last sentence in Prothero’s chapter on Islam? Do you think Smith would agree with it? Compare with Smith’s last page on Islam. Turn in one page reflecting on last week’s discussion of Buddhism and your response to Siddhartha.

3-13—SPRING BREAK---Take this chance to begin your Site Visit interviews & attend services!

3-20—Read Smith and Prothero’s short chapters on “Taoism” and read The Tao Te Ching, Stephen Mitchell translation, choosing the one verse that you feels applies most tellingly to your life today. Type up this one verse and bring to class with a few typed sentences explaining why you chose it. This paper will be in lieu of one reflecting on our last class before the Break.

3-27—CLASS REVIEW in preparation for Final Exam/Final Paper/Site Visit Reports.

4-3—First four Site Visit Group Presentations---30 minutes max. per Presentation. Turn in typed list of participants in each group and what each member contributed to group interaction.

4-10—Last three of Site Visit Group Presentations—Same instructions as above. Preview of upcoming Final Exam and final questions about Final Paper Preparation and Presentation.

4-17—FINAL IN-CLASS EXAM (primarily multiple choice/matching/objective)

FINAL PAPERS due as we say “Adieu” and a last, closing “NAMASTE!”

Questions? Problems? Email Dr. P. at linneapearson@gmail.com or call her cell: 786 877 4641 or make an appointment to come meet with her before or after class in Academic One 305.

And remember: “The lamps are many, but the Light is ONE; look, therefore, to the Light.” Rumi

