



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

LCGE2356-65 World Religions

Spring 2020 (Term 203)

Monday 8x Hybrid, 6:00 -7:50 pm

Class Dates: 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20, 5/4

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is **Spiritual Vitality**: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to explore the main views and practices of the major world religions. Students will learn the basic tenets of each faith in order that they may gain the ability to discuss each religion and its corresponding history, practice, and relationship to other faiths.

Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate the cardinal beliefs of prominent world religions.
2. Compare the doctrines of various non-Christian religions to that of biblical Christianity.
3. Identify elements of each religion which may help its adherents understand the gospel of Jesus Christ.

General Education Competencies (GEC)

Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Quantitative Reasoning

This course addresses GEC #3.

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM PSLOs) AND Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Worship Program Student Learning Outcomes (BAM PSLOs)

Leavell College has identified three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BACM and three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BAM:

1. Biblical Interpretation (BACM PSLO #1)
1. Worship Leadership (BAM PSLO #1)
2. Service and Leadership (BACM PSLO #2 and BAM PSLO #2)
3. Historical and Theological Interpretation (BACM PSLO #3 and BAM PSLO #3)

This course addresses BACM PSLO # 1 and BAM PSLO # 3

Course Text

Corduan, Winfried. *Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions*. 2d ed. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. **Reading & Quizzes:** Each student will have read the textbook assignment listed in the course schedule in preparation of the class meeting date . Students will take weekly quizzes covering the readings from the textbook, as well as additional articles posted on Blackboard. Quizzes are given on Blackboard each week and may not be made up. *This assignment relates to BAM/BACM PSLO #3 and CSLOs #1 and #2.*
2. **Midterm:** There will be a midterm due by **Friday, March 14th on Blackboard**. It will cover all readings, class discussions, and lectures covered during the first half of the semester. *This assignment relates to BAM/BACM PSLO #3 and CSLOs #1 and #2.*
3. **Research Paper:** Students will write a 10-15 page term paper examining the core beliefs of a world religion and detailing strategies for sharing the gospel with adherents of that religion. Paper should be written in Turabian format, and represent the highest scholarly standards. Students must submit their topic for approval by professor by the end of the first week. The research paper is due by **May 3rd on Blackboard**. *This assignment relates to GECs #1 and #3; BACM PSLOs #1 and #3; and CSLOs #1, 2, and #3.*

4. **Final Exam:** The final exam is due by **Monday, May 11th on Blackboard**. The final exam is cumulative *This assignment relates to BAM/BACM PSLO #3 and CSLOs #1 and #2.*
5. **Interviews with Adherents of a World Religion:** Each student will complete an interview with a person who is an adherent to a world religion being studied in the course. After the interview the student is to write a thoughtful reflection of the experience. The student may want to include selected significant quotes, a summary paragraph on each interview, what you learned about the person, what you discovered about yourself or what you need to learn. Please turn in the raw data/responses to the questions. If the student is able to interview the person at their place of worship (i.e. Buddhist temple, Mosque, etc.), the reflection should include the student's experiences in the place of worship. Photos would be greatly appreciated. *This assignment relates to BACM PSLO #2, and CSLOs #1 and #3.*

Interview Guide

The student should ask for the time from the person in order to interview them for a class assignment with the objective being to simply learn how people see religious things. The purpose is not to convert the person or even share the gospel message. The purpose is to learn what people are thinking about religious matters. The interview must be conducted in person (not over the telephone or online).

Sample request: *"I am doing a research project and need your help. My assignment is to learn how people see religious things. Will you take a few minutes to help me?"*

Let them know that their name will not be included in any manner. You can interview people you know, business people, people in malls or other public places. Please do not interview family members for this assignment.

Take the approach of a student researching, not a minister evangelizing. Please do not try to convince them or debate with them; simply record their answers on a notepad. If they ask your opinion, gracefully decline (because you do not want to influence their answer). *After* the interview, if the person asks you to tell them your beliefs, listen to the Holy Spirit and either set another time to get together for that purpose or go ahead and share. THE POINT, if they feel you are conning them into a witnessing opportunity, you will not get their true feelings and thoughts.

The following represents questions the student should ask...

1. How did you come to practice your religion? Was it the religion of your family, or did you discover it in your spiritual journey?
2. What aspect of your religion gives you the greatest comfort?
3. Is there anything about your religion that you question or about which you have doubts?
4. How do you live out your religious beliefs each day?

Course Grading

Assignments

1. Quizzes	15%
2. Midterm	20%
3. Research Paper	30%
4. Interview	15%
5. Final Exam	20 %

Grading Scale

A	93-100
B	85-92
C	77-84
D	70-76
F	Below 70

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments Due Dates
1	Monday January 27 Class Meeting	Syllabus Class Introduction Paper Introduction Halverson's Chart	Introduction/Chapter 1: Religion: Study and Practice Submit Research Topic by February 1 st
2	February 3-9	Judaism	Chapter 2: Judaism Quiz 1 on Blackboard by Feb. 9 th
3	Monday February 10 Class Meeting	Islam	Chapters 3 & 4: Islam Quiz 2 on Blackboard by Feb. 16 th
4	February 17 -23		Quiz 3 on Blackboard by Feb. 23 rd
5	Monday February 24 Class Meeting	Baha'i Zoroastrianism & Traditional Religions (African Religion)	Chapter 5: Baha'i Chapter 6: Zoroastrianism Chapter 7: Traditional Religions (African Religion) Quiz 4 on Blackboard by March 1 st
6	March 2-8		Quiz 5 on Blackboard by March 8 th
7	Monday March 9 Class Meeting	Native American Religion	Chapter 8: Native American Religion Quiz 6 on Blackboard by March 12 th

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments Due Dates
7	March 10-14	Mid-Term	Midterm Exam on Blackboard Due by Friday, March 14th
8	March 16-20	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
9	Monday March 23 Class Meeting	Hinduism	Chapter 9: Hinduism Quiz 7 on Blackboard by March 29th
10	March 30-April 5		Quiz 8 on Blackboard by April 5th
11	Monday April 6 Class Meeting	Buddhism	Chapter 10: Buddhism Quiz 9 on Blackboard by April 12th
12	April 13-19	Interview Due	Interview Due on Blackboard by April 15th Quiz 10 on Blackboard by April 19th
13	Monday April 20 Class Meeting	Jainism & Sikhism Chinese Popular Religion & Shinto and Japanese Religions	Chapter 11: Jainism Chapter 12: Sikhism Chapter 13: Chinese Popular Religion Chapter 14: Shinto and Japanese Religions Quiz 11 on Blackboard by April 26th
14	April 27-May 3	Research Paper Due	Research Paper Due on Blackboard by May 1st Quiz 12 on Blackboard by May 3rd
15	Monday May 4 Class Meeting	Last Day of Class Review	Quiz 13 on Blackboard by May 6th
16	May 6-10	Study for Final Exam	Study
17	Monday, May 11	FINAL EXAM	Final Exam on Blackboard due Monday, May 11th at 6:00 pm

*The Professor reserves the right to change topics/dates as necessary (see course policies).

Additional Course Information

1. Attendance Policy: Per the Leavell College catalog, school policies regarding absences and tardies will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than 2 hybrid classes will automatically receive a grade of “F” for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early for class will be counted as one hour of absence. The student is responsible for contacting the teacher if he or she is tardy, and the roll has been taken. The student is responsible for all material, including that which was covered during an absence.
2. Blackboard/Self-Serve: The student is responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents, and announcements. The student is also responsible for maintaining current information and current e-mail address on the Blackboard system and Self-Serve. As Blackboard and Self-Serve do not communicate with one another, students will need to enter updates on both platforms.
3. Writing Guide Style Writing Style Guide: Writing assignments should follow the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style (revised August 2019). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>
4. Netiquette: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.
5. Academic Honesty Policy: All students, whether on-campus, Internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.
6. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
7. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event or epidemic, go to the seminary’s website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course’s Blackboard site.

8. *For Technical Assistance*: For general NOBTS technical help, go to:
www.NOBTS.edu/itc/
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Selected Bibliography

Online Sources

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