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# Exploring the World's Religions

REL 225 – Wesleyan College

Syllabus

Summer 2023, July 3 - August 4

## Professor Contact Information

**Professor:** TBA

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Contact Information:** TBA

**Text/ISBN:** Stephen Prothero, *Religion Matters: An Introduction to the World's Religions* (W. Norton & Company, 2020) [9780393422047]

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## Policies and Procedures

### Course Goals

Students will learn the basic ideas and practices of some of the world's most significant religious traditions and come to understand the multiple, contextual ways that religious traditions intersect and interact with one another and with secular social-political formations. As such, students will develop a sense of religion's impact on the world, including challenges and opportunities, and articulate such sense clearly in written form. Students will also reflect critically on different approaches to interreligious dialogue and engagement.

### Credit Hours

3

### Student Learning Outcomes

To Be Expanded on in Collaboration with the Class

1. Describe the basic ideas and practices of some of the world's most significant religious traditions.
2. Understand what is complicated, potentially problematic, and perhaps useful about the term religion.
3. Identify the regions of the world where major religious traditions historically emerged and where they are practiced in significant numbers today.
4. Appreciate the breadth and variety of means by which any given religion may be practiced, internally and in relationship to other religious, spiritual, and secular traditions.
5. Compare and contrast different approaches to interreligious dialogue and engagement.
6. Assess the significance of religious thought and practice on individual and collective behavior, from the personal to the geopolitical.



7. Formulate a framework for engaging with religious diversity in a pluralist society.
8. Career Development Skill—Inclusive Teamwork: The ability to understand multiple perspectives, find common goals, and collaborate with others to achieve team objectives.

### **Participation and Grading**

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance in the following categories:

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	30%
Discussion	20%
Assignments	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Grading Scale:**

The grading scale in the class will be as follows:

- A=90-100%
- B=80-89%
- C=70-79%
- D=60-69%
- F=59% And Below

You may track your running point total throughout the term via our course site. Please be aware, however, that the course grade you see in the site will reflect only assignments and activities you have already completed and that your professor has graded.

### **Academic Integrity**

Wesleyan's College expects student to show integrity in all of their work. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, inventing or falsifying information, turning in work for more than one class without authorization, or helping someone else are all violations of the Honor Code and are not tolerated. Any of these forms of cheating will not be tolerated and will be grounds for a grade of zero on the exam or assignment and a grade of F for the course, in addition to any penalties imposed by the Provost.

### **Potential Changes to Course Schedule**

The following week-to-week schedule is a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary and will be announced in advance via announcement and/or e-mail. Students should check their course site announcements and emails at least once every twenty-four hours throughout the term to watch for updates regarding this course.



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## Course Schedule

### Week 1

Introduction to the course  
Hinduism in Religion Matters  
Buddhism in Religion Matters

### Week 2

Confucianism in Religion Matters  
Daoism in Religion Matters

### Week 3

Sikhism in Religion Matters  
Yoruba Religion in Prothero, God Is Not One

### Week 4

Judaism in Religion Matters  
Christianity in Religion Matters  
Islam in Religion Matters

### Week 5

Navajo Religion in Religion Matters  
Atheism in Religion Matters

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## Civility in the Academic Community

Students, faculty, and staff are expected to treat one another with respect in all interactions both during class meetings and on the Moodle course site. Rude, disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviors as determined by a faculty member interfere with other students' rights and with the professor's ability to teach. Therefore, any student exhibiting unacceptable behaviors during a class meeting or Moodle collaborative activity will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that class period or activity. Failure to cooperate with this process will result in disciplinary action that may include withdrawal from the class or dismissal from the College. Violations will be reported to the Provost.

## Disabilities Statement

Wesleyan College is committed to equal education, full participation and access to facilities for all students. Any student who requires reasonable academic accommodations, use of auxiliary aids or facility access for a class must first register with Disability Resources by contacting Jill Amos, Director of Disability and Advocacy Services, [jamos@wesleyancollege.edu](mailto:jamos@wesleyancollege.edu) or (478) 757-5219. If reasonable accommodations are established, students should



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request Accommodation Letters from Disability Resources then schedule an appointment to meet with the professor to determine how the accommodations will be implemented for each class as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations require advance notice to implement and will not be retroactively administered for the semester. Accommodations that decrease the integrity of a course will not be approved.

### **Privacy in Teaching & Learning Spaces**

In order to promote an environment in which ideas may be freely expressed, the interior offices; in-person and virtual classrooms; and Moodle course sites at Wesleyan are private spaces. The unauthorized creation of photographic images, audio recordings, or video recordings of students or faculty in these spaces is considered to be disruptive behavior which may result in a student's removal from class according to the professor's discretion. The distribution of unauthorized images or recordings, or of class meeting recordings shared by a professor for instructional purposes, without the express written permission of the College is strictly prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action by the Provost of the College.