

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND THE MODERN WORLD

Religious Studies 615
Graduate 3 cr.

Loretta Dornisch, Ph.D.
Office Predolin 322 663-2288
ldornisch@edgewood.edu

Research into the interplay of religious traditions with contemporary studies of cultures, societies, politics, economic and the humanities. (Pre- requisite: Course in World Religions)

GOAL: To provide opportunity:

- 1) to continue to raise questions about religious traditions and the modern world
- 2) to extend acquaintance with written and other resources about religious traditions and the modern world
- 3) to increase appreciation of diverse traditions
- 4) to increase awareness of the relationship of contemporary issues with diverse religious traditions
- 5) to engage in meaningful discussion on topics related to religious traditions and the modern world
- 6) to become aware of selected outstanding, writers and leaders in particular traditions
- 7) to increase appreciation of one's own tradition in the context of enlarged horizons

TEXTS: Smart, Ninian. WORLD VIEWS; CROSSCULTURAL EXPLORATION OF HUMAN BELIEFS. New York. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Hinnells, John R. Ed. A NEW HANDBOOK OF LIVIG RELIGIONS. New York. Penguin Books.

Dornisch, Loretta. FEMINISM AND BEYOND. Bloomington, Indiana. Authorhouse.

Additional bibliography. Journals. Newspapers. Videos.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR:

Readings, videos, DVD's,

Jan. 19	World views. Introduction to focal areas.	Smart. Dornisch.. Pluralism Project. Internet
Feb. 2	Presentations: focal area of choice. Africa	On Africa.
Feb. 16	Islam.	On Islam.
Mar. 1	Hispanic America.	On Hispanic America.
Mar. 15	North American Indians. Synthesis.	On N. American Indians.
Mar 29	Religions of India.	On India.
Apr. 12	Religions of China, Japan.	On China. On Japan.
Apr. 26	Presentations.	
(May 3	If needed, make-up “snow day” if one of the regular classes cannot meet)	
May 10	Synthesis. Final presentations.	

REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES:

1. Demonstration of extensive in- depth research/ reading through:
 - class presentations
 - participation in discussion
 - bibliography, some annotated
 - notebook or equivalent of readings, research, experiences, +
2. One oral and written presentation of extensive research.
Outline:
 1. Description of issue, theme, or focus
 2. Review of the literature
 3. Key figures and/ or ideas
 4. Comparison/ contrasts/ development/ present- future situations
 5. Summary
 6. Bibliography
3. Bibliography development

1. On- going bibliography
2. For specific bibliographies for each focus all assume responsibility:
Provide for class a copy
3. Books, journals (examples: Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Journal of Ecumenical Studies.) Religion is the primary category. Religion index is available on computer line. ATLA
4. Other resources

Interviews	Films
Visits to places of worship	Videos
Museums- Chazen	Community Opportunities
Harvard Pluralism Project	
5. Examples of research areas:
(Each needs to be narrowed in focus. Available bibliography and resources are critical in choosing a topic.)
 1. The religious traditions of _____ and the Modern World.
Navahos in Arizona or Menomonees in Wisconsin or...
Egypt and Israel
South Africa
Bolivia, Mexico, or Argentina
 2. Apartheid, Reconciliation, and religious traditions
Terrorism in the Mid- East and religious traditions
The mid- East crisis and religious traditions
 3. Contemporary extension of Islam and its effects
Fundamentalism in the U.S. (or Sun Prairie, or Madison, or Dodgeville)
The Evangelical Movement and today's societies
 4. Christianity and the Modern World
Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians...
 5. Judaism and today's societies
 6. Liberation Theology and its impact
 7. Feminist Theology and its impact
 8. The Church(es) and Modern Societies
 9. India
Tensions new and old
Gandhi as bridge

Jainism and the modern world
Temple cultures
Monasticism
Mother Teresa

10. China

Religion and contemporary China
Resurgence of Christianity in China today
Dominant value systems in areas of China today
Roman Catholicism in China

11. Japan

Traditional religious values in Japan today
Shinto Today
Temple culture
Monasticism
Christianity today