East Carolina University
Religious Studies Program
SYLLABUS
World Religions 101

Spring 2023 (Class begins February 7)
Instructor: Religious Studies Faculty and Community members
Contact Person: Dr. Mary Nyangweso
Austin Building 325A
Phone: 252-737-2422, Email: wangilam@ecu.edu

Time: Tuesday at 5:30-7:00 pm Venue: Brewster D313

Course Description: We welcome all to World Religions 101. Religion has not only existed and influenced human behavior since ancient times; it has also expressed itself in diverse ways. This course will present a survey of the origins, historical developments, teachings, and current status of some major world religions. In the course, we will explore the differing ways in which religions are used to interpret life and reality. The religions to be examined include Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Chinese religions, and Indigenous religions. We will particularly explore the lives, practices and teachings of great religious leaders associated with these religions to highlight their interpretations of life and reality. For more information about the course or the religious studies major contact me at wangilam@ecu.edu or visit www.ecu.edu/religionprogram

Learning Outcomes: At the end of the course, students should be able to:
- Explain the origin, historical development, beliefs, and contemporary practices of a variety of religious expression.
- Appreciate the richness and diversity as well as commonalities of religious experience over a variety of cultural and historical periods.
- Gain an understanding about how and why people construct their religious worlds through myth, ritual, symbolism, beliefs and ethics.
- Understand the benefits of inter-religious engagement, dialogues and possibly collaboration.

## Course Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 1: Completed</th>
<th>Introduction &amp; Expectations</th>
<th>Some faculty</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: Completed</td>
<td>Why Religion Matters- Deming 1-8</td>
<td>Dr. Nyangweso</td>
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| Week 3: February 7 | Hinduism  
Reading: Deming, 9-60                     | Dr. Maher, Dr. Priti |
| Week 4: February 21 | Buddhism  
Reading: Deming, 61-114                    | Dr. Maher            |
| March 5-12        | **Spring Break**                             |                      |
| Week 5: February 28 | Judaism  
Reading: Deming, 269-324                  | Rabbi Harley         |
| Week 6: March 14  | Christianity  
Reading: Deming, 325-334                  | Dr. Dawson           |
| Week 7: March 21  | Philosophy and the Christian Experience  
Reading: TBD                                      | Dr. John Collins     |
| Week 8: March 28  | Islam  
Reading: Deming 389-448                      | Dr. Nyangweso        |
| Week 10: April 4  | Afrocentric Religion  
Reading: Deming, 201-236                      | Dr. Nyangweso        |
| Week 11: April 11 | Future of Religion  
Reading TBD                                      | Dr. Mercer           |
| Week 12: April 18 | Wicca                                        | Ms. Mitchell         |
| Week 13: April 25 | Closing session                             | All faculty          |