

Course Overview

Course Instructor

Name	Rev. Pamela (Pami) Parker, M.S.
Virtual Office Hours	By appointment
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Response Time Policy	Within 24 hours of call or email

Course Description

Students will embark upon an exploration of the diverse ways human beings have experienced and expressed religiously throughout history and around the world. The world's religions have produced various answers to questions like: Where have we come from? Why are we here? What is the purpose of life? What is sacred? How do we live a good life? What happens after we die? Across time and place, humans have sought to cope with deep existential issues concerning identity, value and meaning. This course provides students with an introduction to definitions of religion and spirituality as well as overviews of the most influential world religions.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, learners will be able to:

- Describe the different definitions of religion and spirituality discussed in class.
- Identify and explain the basic characteristics of religions(s) as they are expressed in scholarship and present in world religions studied.
- Evaluate how religious worldview encountered in this course understands the basic human problem, answer to that problem, and means of answering the problem and moving toward the aim of life.
- Assess the role of religion and spirituality in today's postmodern age of plurality, diversity, and ambiguity.

Required Text/Readings

- Prothero, Stephen. *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World – and Why Their Differences Matter*
- Smith, Huston. *The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions*. Updated. New York: HarperCollins 1991
- Roach, Paul John. *Unity and World Religions* (p. 202). Unity Books. Kindle Edition.

Live Collaborate Class Sessions:

Saturdays, Noon to 1:30 pm all times Central Time (CT) Zone

January

1. January 21, 2023

2. January 28, 2023

February

3. February 4, 2023
4. February 11, 2023
5. February 18, 2023
6. February 25, 2023

March

7. March 4, 2023
8. March 11, 2023
9. March 18, 2023
10. March 25, 2023