

An Introduction to World Religions

Grades:	7th – 9th
Day (s) of Week:	Monday
Time of Class:	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Winter 2019
Tuition:	\$300.00

Class Dates:

Week of January 14

Week of January 21

Week of January 28

Week of February 4

Week of February 11

Week of February 18

Week of February 25

Week of March 4

Week of March 11

Week of March 18

Make Up Week: Week of March 25

High School Credit: **.5 History or Elective**

Instructor's Name:	Jonathan Meola
Instructor's Email:	jonathan@opententacademy.com
Instructor's Skype:	jonathanmeola
Instructor's Phone:	786-605-0694
Instructor's Whats App:	+972-58-764-7590
Office Hours:	By appointment

Description of Class:

Across the globe, people have asked questions such as:

- Where/How did the world begin?
- Who are we?
- What is our purpose is in life?

These questions, when viewed through the prism of different religious traditions, have a variety of answers. Throughout human history, religion has played a role in history, literature and current events. Without a basic understanding of various religious traditions, students often can't relate to what they read in fiction and non-fiction texts. In this survey class, we will explore some of the major faiths practiced by people worldwide. For each one studied, we will learn about:

- Sacred objects
- Festivals
- Traditions
- Sacred places
- Rites of passage.

Class Approach:

We will discuss in class a variety of religions and cultural connections. The class is highly interactive. Students are expected to participate.

Goals:

For students to develop an understanding of faiths, traditions and histories

Textbook:

The Usborne Encyclopedia of World Religions by Susan Meredith and Clare Hickman.
ISBN: 978-0-7945-2753-2

https://www.amazon.com/Usborne-Encyclopedia-World-Religions-Internet-linked/dp/0794527531/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1516732796&sr=8-1&keywords=The+Usborne+Encyclopedia+of+World+Religions+by+Susan+Meredith+and+Clare+Hickman.

Instructor will also provide additional readings, videos and PDFs.

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

- Notebook / Notepad
- Pen / Pencil

- Computer
- Microphone

Weekly Homework:

Approximately 2 hours. Students are expected to complete any readings assigned prior to class. They should be ready to discuss. In addition, there will be a few papers and/or projects for the student to complete.

Homework Policy:

Homework is expected on time. It should be submitted via CANVAS (our LMS) prior to the next class.

Additional Policies:

Respect for other students. Respect for opinions. Respect. Respect. Respect.

Grading Scale:

100-90:	A
89-80:	B
79-70:	C
69-60:	D
59 – 0:	No effort: F

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Winter 2019

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction, What is religion?
Week 2	Hinduism
Week 3	Judaism
Week 4	Buddhism
Week 5	Christianity and Nonconformists
Week 6	Islam
Week 7	Sikhism and Shinto
Week 8	Chinese Religions, Jainism, the Baha'i Faith
Week 9	Zoroastrianism, Rastafarianism
Week 10	Local Religions, Past Religions