

World Religions

This Course-for-Credit can be studied in one semester or two. It is an excellent course for 7th and up. Students encounter the teaching of various religions in ways we aren't aware (New Ageism in movies, Yoga centers on campuses) so it makes sense to heighten their awareness to the cultural influences around them. Besides readings and movies, sprinkle in field trips by visiting various religious locations in your community. We found all were very open to our visit and willing to answer our questions. Always follow up with dialog with your students to help them align these experiences with the Word of God.

Suggestion: though not necessary, consider studying the Old Testament and World History (Streams of Civilization I) first semester and World Religions and World Geography second semester.

There is no one order to studying the religions, but keep the groupings and order within the groupings the same (ex: start with Hinduism when studying the Indian religions).

DSST Exam Fact Sheet: <http://getcollegecredit.com/testprep.html>

Indian Origins

Hinduism – 10%

Buddhism – 10%

Jainism & Sikhism

Chinese and Japanese Religions

Confucianism – 6%

Taoism – 4%

Shintoism

Monotheistic Religions

Judaism – 16%

Christianity – 18%

Islam – 16%

Native Religions

Baha'i

Consider the percentage of questions on the exam for each religion. Some you need to know well (Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam) and others just the basics.

Resources:

TEXT: There is no one really good text that is engaging and readable for all ages, but there are two that stand out. Choose one that best fits your student's learning style and age.

For the older student (11/12th grade): Religions of the World by Hopfe (7, 8, 9th ed. are all OK)
There is a companion book site available: <http://cwx.prenhall.com/bookbind/pubbooks/hopfe/>

For the Younger student: The Kingfisher Book of Religions Note: this is the book I used for my 9th grader – he much preferred it to the Hopfe book.

For all ages, the easy readers from the children's section of the library can be used to supplement the above texts – they are easy to read in one sitting, are filled with engaging pictures and will repeat or fill in gaps of your primary text. Suggestions: DK World Religions and the series by Penney – World Beliefs and Cultures, though any will do.

Online Reading: I really prefer reading from a text, but these sites are excellent:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/> or <http://www.religionfacts.com/judaism/index.htm>

1. Optional: **Video:** The Story of God (might be able to find online)
2. Optional: For Audio learners: <http://www.learnoutloud.com/Podcast-Directory/Religion-and-Spirituality/Comparative-Religion/Revealing-World-Religions-Podcast/20147> (audio) or video - <http://www.free-ed.net/free-ed/Humanities/Religion/IntroReligion01.asp>

***** Take notes as you read or watch the videos**

WORKBOOK: These Notes and Worksheets have been compiled to help students understand the more unfamiliar religions (Judaism and Christianity are not included). There are some vocabulary words and concepts that the student should research and fill in. Students should pay particular attention to the underlined concepts. There are questions on the DSST on them.

MOVIES: We enjoyed adding movies as a way to understand how followers of these faiths practice their beliefs. Some are noted in this packet.

Discussion: Discuss differences between the religion and Christianity – commentary from <http://www.probe.org/site/c.fdKEIMNsEoG/b.4217707/k.D266/Hinduism.htm> (this link is for Hinduism, but most religions are discussed on this site)

INSTANTCERT FLASHCARDS: Optional: Finish your semester study utilizing the flashcards on the InstantCert website. People realizing success with this test have put approx. 10 hours studying these IC flash cards.

****Finish with the practice tests available – see <http://www.free-clep-prep.com/> for details
This site's practice exam is KEY!**

VIDEOS:

- Indescribable by Louie Giglio – can be found on YouTube
- Hinduism Movie: Gandhi (good bridge between Hinduism and Buddhism)
- Mother Teresa: In the Name of God's Power (takes place in Calcutta India, so a good movie that includes how she cared for those of the Hindu faith.
- Tibetan Buddhism Movie: Seven Years in Tibet (Brad Pitt)
- Confucianism Movie: Learner.org watch "Connections Across Water"
- Islam: Inside Islam from the History Channel (excellent) – also found at the library and on the web <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAjsu1ATrts>

Our Method -- We started with Hinduism and spent 2 weeks on each religion:

- Read about Hinduism and fill in NOTES with additional notes and define noted terms
- Optional - Watch: <http://www.watchknow.org/Category.aspx?CategoryID=1778>
- Discuss differences between Hinduism and Christianity – commentary from <http://www.probe.org/site/c.fdKEIMNsEoG/b.4217707/k.D266/Hinduism.htm>
- Using your NOTES (Pages 1-27), fill in blanks on Hinduism WORKSHEETS. If you have questions you cannot answer from your notes, look up material online and fill in your Notes first. Then go back and answer the questions. Once complete, study answers.
- Create Mural:** Note symbols that relate to key concepts within each religion. At the end of each unit's study, create a one-page mural that "maps" the religion visually. Post on your bathroom wall. After studying 2 or 3 religions, you will find that concepts blend together and it is hard to keep each religion's facts separate.

Repeat for all other religions

NOTE: These 4 pages are an introduction to a course Cheri Frame put together for her own students. They are meant to provide a spring board to others teaching co-op classes. If you find ways to improve them, please let me know! tcframe02@msn.com

The Major Faiths

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam	Hinduism	Buddhism
Founder	The Hebrew leader Abraham founded Judaism around 2000 B.C. Moses gave the Jews the Torah around 1250 B.C.	Jesus Christ , who was crucified around A.D. 30 in Jerusalem .	Muhammad , who was born in A.D. 570 at Mecca, in Saudi Arabia .	Hinduism has no founder. The oldest religion, it may date to prehistoric times.	Siddhartha Gautama , called the Buddha, in the 4th or 5th century B.C. in India .
How Many Gods	One	One	One	Many (all gods and goddesses are considered different forms of one Supreme Being.)	None, but there are enlightened beings (Buddhas)
Holy Writings	The most important are the Torah, or the first five books of Moses. Others include Judaism's oral tradition, the written form of which is known as the Talmud .	The Bible is the main sacred text of Christianity.	The Koran is the sacred book of Islam.	The most ancient are the four Vedas.	The most important are the Tripitaka, the Mahayana Sutras, Tantra, and Zen texts.
Beliefs	Jews believe in the laws of God and the words of the prophets. In Judaism, however, actions are more important than beliefs.	Jesus taught love of God and neighbor and a concern for justice.	The Five Pillars, or main duties, are: profession of faith; prayer; charitable giving; fasting during the month of Ramadan; and pilgrimage to Mecca at least once.	Reincarnation states that all living things are caught in a cycle of death and rebirth. Life is ruled by the laws of karma, in which rebirth depends on moral behavior.	The Four Noble Truths: (1) all beings suffer; (2) desire—for possessions, power, and so on—causes suffering; (3) desire can be overcome; and (4) the path that leads away from desire is the Eightfold Path (the Middle Way).
Types	The three main types are Orthodox , Conservative , and Reform . Conservative Jews follow most traditional practices, but less strictly than the Orthodox. Reform Jews are the least traditional.	In 1054 Christians separated into the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church . In the early 1500s the major Protestant groups (Lutheran, Presbyterian , and Episcopalian) came into being. A variety of other groups have since developed.	Almost 90% of Muslims are Sunnis . Shiites are the second-largest group. The Shiites split from the Sunnis in 632 when Muhammad died.	No single belief system unites Hindus. A Hindu can believe in only one god, in many, or in none.	Theravada (Way of the Elders) and Mahayana (Greater Vehicle) are the two main types.
Where	There are large Jewish populations in Israel and the U.S.	Through its missionary activity Christianity has spread to most parts of the globe.	Islam is the main religion of the Middle East, Asia, and the north of Africa.	Hinduism is practiced by more than 80% of India's population.	Buddhism is the main religion in many Asian countries.

Read more: [The Major Faiths \(concise table\) — Infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0921143.html#ixzz18mE4aOCe)
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