

World Religions

BIB-2300

2022 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2023 Modified 04/19/2022

Course Description

World Religions

A multitude of religions exist in the world today. The beliefs and worldview a person possesses can significantly impact the way he/she lives. However, with so many unique and distinct viewpoints, it can be hard to distinguish the definitive roots of those belief systems. With the high number of existing religions and faiths, this course acts as a guide to help individuals gain a better understanding of the major world religions. In particular, this course will give students a holistic overview of each of the existing primary faiths along with their origin, key texts, primary beliefs, and their current status.

Rationale

The educational philosophy of LUOA is based on a Christian worldview. However, this course is intentionally unbiased so students who take this course can gain a better understanding of all of the faiths that exist without prejudice or partiality being shown. Students who are able to understand all of the existing faiths will be able to better understand other worldviews and speak to why they would or would not choose certain religions or viewpoints. This course also helps educate students to speak into other areas of faith outside of Christianity. Walking through the existing worldviews will give students a better understanding of what religious beliefs are being presented today. This course will provide students with a thorough foundation on the origins, key texts, major philosophies, and current state of each of the major world religions. Students who take this course should be able to speak to each of the current belief systems and why each faith believes what it does.

Prerequisite

None. This course is rigorous and designed for high school seniors.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

- A. The student will be presented with a comprehensive overview of each of the major world religions.
- B. The student will review the definition of religion and tools for studying religion.
- C. The student will be presented with the definition of ethics and will analyze western ethics and other ethical views.
- D. The student will examine how to think critically, the concept of worldviews, and various worldview philosophies.
- E. The student will be exposed to the origin of each of the major world religions.
- F. If applicable, the student will explore each of the key text(s) associated with each major world religion.
- G. The student will examine, analyze, and investigate the core beliefs and practices of each of the major beliefs.
- H. The student will evaluate the various world religions using critical thinking and establish their worldview based on the concepts presented.

Course Resources

See LUOA's [Systems Requirements](#) for computer specifications necessary to operate LUOA curriculum. Also view [Digital Literacy Requirements](#) for LUOA's expectation of users' digital literacy.

- Note: Embedded YouTube videos may be utilized to supplement LUOA YouTube videos are the property of the respective content creator, licensed to YouTube for distribution and user access. As a non-profit educational institution, LUOA is able to use

Scripture Attribution

- Grades 7-12: All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible.

Policies

Students are accountable for all information in the [Student Handbook \(https://www.liberty.edu/online-academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/LUOA-Student-Handbook.pdf\)](https://www.liberty.edu/online-academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/LUOA-Student-Handbook.pdf). Below are a few policies that have been highlighted from the Student Handbook.

Course Grading Policies

The student's grades will be determined according to the following grading scale and assignment weights. The final letter grade for the course is determined by a 10-point scale. Assignments are weighted according to a tier system, which can be referenced on the Grades page in Canvas. Each tier is weighted according to the table below. Items that do not affect the student's grade are found in Tier 0.

Grading Scale	Assignment Weights
A 90-100%	Tier 0 0%
B 80-89%	Tier 1 25%
C 70-79%	Tier 2 35%
D 60-69%	Tier 3 40%
F 0-59%	

In order for students to receive credit for a course, the following conditions have to be met:

- All semester exams and module tests have to be completed.
- All Tier 3 projects or papers have to be completed.
- Fewer than 10 zeros exist in the gradebook for blank submissions in a full credit course and 5 zeros for blank submissions in a semester course.

Types of Assessments

To simplify and clearly identify which policies apply to which assessment, each assessment has been categorized into one of four categories: Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test. Each applicable item on the course Modules page has been designated with an identifier chosen from among these categories. Thus, a Quiz on the American Revolution may be designated by the title, "1.2.W Quiz: The American Revolution." These identifiers were placed on the Modules page to help students understand which Honor Code and Resubmission policies apply to that assessment (see the Honor Code and Resubmission policies on the pages that follow for further details).

- Lesson:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a "Lesson"*

These include instructional content and sometimes an assessment of that content. Typically, a Lesson will be the day-to-day work that a student completes.

- Assignment:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as an "Assignment"*

Typical examples of Assignments include, but are not limited to, papers, book reports, projects, labs, and speeches. Assignments are usually something that the student should do his or her best work on the first time.

- **Quiz:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a "Quiz"*

This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Quizzes cover a smaller amount of material than Tests.

- **Test:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a "Test"*

This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Tests cover a larger amount of material than Quizzes.

Resubmission Policy

Students are expected to submit their best work on the first submission for every Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, and Test. However, resubmissions may be permitted in the following circumstances:

- **Lesson:** Students are automatically permitted two attempts on a Lesson. Students may freely resubmit for their first two attempts without the need for teacher approval.
- **Assignment:** Students should do their best work the first time on all Assignments. However, any resubmissions must be completed before the student moves more than one module ahead of that Assignment. For example, a student may resubmit an Assignment from Module 3 while in Module 4, but not an Assignment from Modules 1 or 2. High School students may not resubmit an Assignment without expressed written permission from the teacher in a comment.
- **Quiz:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.
- **Test:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.

If a student feels that he or she deserves a resubmission on a Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test due to a technical issue such as a computer malfunction, the student should message his or her teacher to make the request.

Honor Code Policy

Every time a student violates the Honor Code, the teacher will submit an Honor Code Incident Report. The Student Support Coordinator will review the incident and allocate the appropriate consequences. Consequences, which are determined by the number of student offenses, are outlined below:

- **Warning:** This ONLY applies to high school Lessons and elementary/middle school Assignments and Lessons. Students should view these actions as learning opportunities.
 - **Lessons:** A zero will be assigned for the question only.
 - **Elementary/Middle School Assignment:** The student must redo his or her work; however, the student may retain his or her original grade.
- **1st Offense:**
 - **Lesson, Quiz, or Test:** The student will receive a 0% on the entire assessment.
 - **Assignment:** The student will either:
 - Receive a 0% on the original assignment
 - Complete the Plagiarism Workshop
 - Retry the assignment for a maximum grade of 80%
- **2nd Offense:** The student will receive a 0% and be placed on academic probation.
- **3rd Offense:** The student will receive a 0% and the Director of Faculty will determine the consequences that should follow, possibly including withdrawal from the course or expulsion from the academy.

Materials Selection Policy

LUOA curates educational materials that are consistent with the school's philosophy; however, the fallen human condition depicted in literature (as in Scripture itself) is not always pleasant. Valuable works sometimes have objectionable or profane elements. Good books provide four (4) recognized values.

- They build godly attitudes and character traits.
- They deepen our social and cultural awareness.

- They strengthen our use of written language.
- They provide a lifelong source of enjoyment and relaxation.

In order to instill these values in students and fulfill the stated objectives of the school, all LUOA students are expected to read and study good books on a regular basis. Recognizing that materials designed for one level may not be appropriate for another, three (3) levels of criteria are applied:

- Elementary materials must contain no objectionable material,
- Objectionable elements in sixth through eighth-grade materials must be limited and must serve a specific educational purpose, and
- Objectionable content may be included in high school materials but must be outweighed by positive literary, curricular, and/or Christian values.

The curriculum department has approved required educational materials for students.

Enhanced Policies

LUOA Enhanced Courses provide additional student support through increased interaction and communication with the course instructor. Interaction takes place through:

- Weekly live teaching sessions
- Regular Q&A conferences with teacher before certain assessments
- Required participation in discussion boards

Course Participation

Due to the setup of Enhanced courses, it is important that the student stay up to date with course content and not get behind. If the student falls more than two weeks behind, administration reserves the right to withdraw the student from the course.

Participation Grade

Students are given a participation grade based on attendance during the teacher live sessions and participation in discussion boards. For full-year courses, there are 20 teacher live sessions and four discussion boards. Semester courses have 10 live sessions and two discussion boards. Participation grades are given at the end of each semester and count as a Tier 3 assignment.

Semester Grade Participation

Grade	Participation
A	Attended 8-10 teacher live sessions; participated in two discussion boards
B	Attended 6-7 teacher live sessions; participated in two discussion boards
C	Attended 5 teacher live sessions; participated in two discussion boards
D	Attended 3-4 teacher live sessions; participated in one discussion board
F	Attended 0-3 teacher live sessions; participated in zero discussion boards

Late Policy

In order to take full advantage of our Enhanced courses, it is important that students stay on track with their scheduled assignments so that they benefit from the discussions with their teacher and classmates. Meeting deadlines is a skill that will aid students in their high school classes and beyond. Enhanced courses offer LUOA students help in developing this skill by requiring assignments to be turned in by the due date in order to receive full credit. For each day the assignment is not submitted, 5 percent will be deducted from the assignment grade with a maximum deduction of 20 percent.

** Exceptions to this late policy may be considered in cases of illness, travel, or unforeseen events. Students will need to contact their teacher to seek approval for any exception.*

Semester and Final Exams Proctored

The proctoring of the semester and/or final exam by a parent/guardian or other adult is required for Enhanced Courses. A form is provided in the course that the proctor will sign and complete. The student will then upload the form into an assignment before being able to begin the exam.

Schedule

Module 1: What is Religion, Ethics, and Worldview?

Week 1: Introduction – Religion and This Course

Week 2: Ethics and Morality

Week 3: Critical Thinking and an Introduction to Worldviews

Week 4: Basic Worldview Philosophies Week 5: Recognizing Worldviews

Module 2: Belief Systems, Ancient Near Eastern Religions, and Other Ancient Religions

Week 6: Basic Belief Systems

Week 7: Ancient Near Eastern Religions, and Other Ancient Religions

Week 8: Shamanism and Animism

Week 9: Confucianism, First Quarter Test

Module 3: Hinduism, Greek Philosophy, and Eastern Religions

Week 10: Zoroastrianism

Week 11: Greek Philosophy

Week 12: Hinduism

Week 13: Hinduism Project

Week 14: Taoism

Module 4: Far Eastern Religions – Shintoism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism

Week 15: Shintoism and Sikhism

Week 16: Jainism

Week 17: Introduction to Buddhism

Week 18: Buddhism, Second Quarter Test

Module 5: Judaism and Christianity

Week 19: Introduction to Judaism

Week 20: Judaism

Week 21: Introduction to Christianity

Week 22: Christianity

Module 6: Islam and Its Sects

Week 23: Introduction to Islam

Week 24: Islam

Week 25: Islam (continued)

Week 26: Monotheism Project

Week 27: Review Week, Third Quarter Test

Module 7: Cults and Religions Outside the Mainstream

Week 28: Introduction to Cults

Week 29: Cults

Week 30: Religions Outside the Mainstream

Week 31: Cults and Other Religions Outside the Mainstream Project

Module 8: Truth, Absolutes, and Relativism

Week 32: Moral Assumptions

Week 33: Moral Absolutism

Week 34: Syncretism in Religions

Week 35: Tolerance and Relativism

Week 36: Review Week, Fourth Quarter Test