**HUMI 9 – Intro to Comparative Religion**

**De Anza College** -- 4 units

**Instructor:** Lori Clinchard, Ph.D.; clinchardlori@deanza.edu

**On-Campus / Hybrid Class:**  Day/Time/Location vary per quarter

**Online Class**: Canvas (asynchronous: no set time) – access through your MyPortal page

**Office Hours:**  T/W/Th 1:00-2:00 at California History Center (CHC); Zoom by appointment

(CHC is the white, historic building between Flint parking garage, MLC & Sunken Garden)

**Resources for Basic Needs:** <https://www.deanza.edu/resources/index.html>

**Student Resource Hub:** <https://www.deanza.edu/online-ed/students/remotelearning.html>

**Disability Support Services**: <https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/>

**Honors section option:** An Honors section ***is*** being offered; see below.

**Course Description:**

This course examines the religious dimension of human life and experience, focusing on the religious language, attitudes, images, myths, metaphors, symbols, and rituals relating to the history and practice of religion. We will study how women and men throughout history and across cultures have lived and expressed a religious faith based on their sense of the sacred.

**Student Learning Outcome Statements (SLO’s)**

* **Student Learning Outcome**: Students synthesize their critical thinking, imaginative, cooperative, and empathetic abilities as whole persons in order to contextualize knowledge, interpret and communicate meaning, and cultivate their capacity for personal, as well as social change.
* **Student Learning Outcome**: Students will facilitate understanding between persons of various religious traditions.
* **Student Learning Outcome**: Students will critique the complexities within each religious tradition in order to engage others in meaningful dialogue regarding values and controversies

**Required Reading:**

1. Smith, Huston. (2009). **The World’s Religions.** San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers. ISBN13: 9780061660184 (\*other editions ok too)
2. Walsh, Roger. (1999). **Essential Spirituality: Exercises from the world’s religions to cultivate kindness, love, joy, peace, vision, wisdom, and generosity.**New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-471-39216-3

**Course Assignments:**

1. **Introduction Activity:** in-class activity during week 1 = **15 pts**

1. **Weekly Quiz*:*** 9 open-book quizzes (Smith); untimed; 2 attempts. Due Thurs. **15 pts each = 135**
2. **Writing Assignments*:*** Do the Walsh readings and exercises before coming to class on Tuesdays. You’ll bring a 2-page, typed, written reflection to class and participate in group discussions. **20 points each week x 8 weeks = 160**
3. **Compassionate Listening Project + Paper (100 pts):** 
   1. **Conduct Listening Session** w/person of any religion (*not your own*, if you have one).
   2. **Record (audio or video) and Transcribe your Listening Session (interview) = 30 pts**
   3. **Write a 4+ page paper** (typed, 12 font, double-spaced, normal margins), including: = **70 pts**
      1. what you learned about your subject’s experience of their spiritual tradition
      2. what you learned about religion, faith, human nature, family, etc.
      3. how you relate to your subject and/or their experience
      4. what you learned through the process of listening/interviewing
      5. recommendations for further research, conversations, actions, etc.
      6. how this assignment contributed to your overall learning for the course
   4. **Extra credit: create a post on The Listening Project website (see below) - 20 pts**
      1. a 5-10 minute audio clip from the Listening Session (interview)
      2. a photo/image - either an actual photo, or a meaningfully symbolic image
      3. 1 paragraph of introduction to the person and their story, giving context and important details (from your paper)
      4. 2 paragraphs of reflection on the experience, emphasizing what you learned through listening (from your paper)
      5. <https://listeningprojectchc.org/>

**Grading: Total points possible = 400 pts.**

**Introduction activity** – in class = 5 points

**Weekly Reading Quizzes** - 9 weeks x 15 pts. each = 135 points

**Writing Assignments/Discussions** = 8 weeks x 20 pts. each = 160 points

**Final Project + Paper** = 30 + 70 = 100 points

**Grading Scale** A-=90%; A=93%; A+=98% / B-=80%; B=83%; B+=88% / C=70%; C+=78%  
D-=60%; D=63%; D+=68% / F=<60%

**Late policy**: You can do the quizzes late, but you will lose 5% per day. However, your score will never go lower than 70% of your original score. Late writing assignments must be turned in by end of Wk 10.

**Drop policy:** It is the responsibility of the student (not the instructor), to officially drop a class via phone, Internet or registrar's office up until the last day to drop a class. After that date, grade will depend on points accumulated, even if grade is D or F.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week 1: Intro to Comparative Religion**

In-person class every week

**Week 2: Spirituality, Religion, Agnosticism, Atheism**

1. Read Walsh: Intro (pp. 1-22) **before class** / **Bring written reflection to class**
2. Read Smith: I. Point of Departure / **Quiz** **Due Thursday**

**Week 3: Indigenous Spirituality**

1. Read Walsh: Practice 1 (pp. 31-68) **before class** / **Bring written reflection to class**
2. Read Smith: IX. The Primal Religions / **Quiz** **Due Thursday**

**Week 4: Hinduism & Sikhism**

1. Read Walsh: Practice 2 (pp. 71-114) **before class** / **Bring written reflection to class**
2. Read Smith: II. Hinduism. / **Quiz** **Due Thursday**

**Week 5: Buddhism**

1. Read Walsh: Practice 3 (pp. 117-144) **before class** / **Bring written reflection to class**
2. Read Smith: III. Buddhism / **Quiz** **Due Thursday**

**Week 6: Confucianism**

1. Read Walsh: Practice 4 (pp. 145-171) **before class** / **Bring written reflection to class**
2. Read Smith: IV. Confucianism / **Quiz Due Thursday**

**Week 7: Taoism**

1. Read Walsh: Practice 5 (pp. 173-205) **before class** / **Bring written reflection to class**
2. Read Smith: V. Taoism **/** **Quiz** **Due Thursday**

**Week 8: Judaism**

1. Read Walsh: Practice 6 (pp. 211- 248) **before class** / **Bring written reflection to class**
2. Read Smith: VII. Judaism / **Quiz** **Due Thursday**

**Week 9: Christianity**

1. Read Walsh: Practice 7 (pp. 249-285 **before class** / **Bring written reflection to class**

2. Read Smith: VIII. Christianity / **Quiz Due Thursday**

3. Start Final Project: Identify Subject(s); Write Questions; etc.

**Week 10: Islam**

1. Read Smith: VI Islam / **Quiz Due Thursday**

2. Conduct Listening Sessions + Transcribe

**Week 11: Reflections**

**Recording + Transcript due Thursday 03/20/24 – on Canvas**

**Week 12: Finals Week - No class**

**Final Essay / Web Post Due - on Canvas**

**Plagiarism:** Any instances of copying and pasting from Internet sources, books, articles, or other students’ papers will be immediately reported to De Anza Administration, and ZERO credit given for the assignment, with no option to make-up the work.

**Honors Option:**

An Honors cohort is being offered in this section.  Eligibility requirements can be found at [www.deanza.edu/honors](http://www.deanza.edu/honors). If you are interested, please contact the Honors Program Coordinator at [dahonors@fhda.edu](mailto:dahonors@fhda.edu) or at 408-864-8833 for approval. The cohort entails additional work**: an informal research paper on an agreed-upon topic.** You must commit to participating in the Honors cohort by the end of the first week of the quarter by dropping the current section of this course and adding the Honors section with a separate add code. You must also sign a written contract with me. Failure to complete the Honors work will result in a lowering of your class grade by 2/3 of a grade (ex: A- to B; B+ to B-; B to C+; etc.).