

World Religions

Course Code: A504

Course Instructor: David W. Shenk, PhD

	THE VIDEO	READING ASSIGNMENT	ESSAYS	QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION
1	Lecture 1. Introducing the Course Lecture 2. The Religions and Ultimate Questions			Share the story of your personal journey in the world of religions.
2	Lecture 3. The World of Religions 3.1. Onion Model of Culture. 3.2. Approaches to the Challenges of Religious Pluralism. 3.3. Characteristics of Religions. 3.4. The Gospel and the Culture Onion. 3.5. Transforming Cultures. 3.6. Cultural Diversity.	Chapter 1. The Gods and Global Community P. 29-52	ESSAY # 1 How do you approach the idea of religious freedom or religious pluralism?	
3	Lecture 3. The World of Religions 3.7. The Role of Meta-narrative. 3.8. Reasons to Consider the Biblical Meta-narrative. 3.9. Redemptive Signs in All Religions. 3.10. Strongholds of Deception in Religions. 3.11. Wakuru's Story. 3.12. Distinctives of the Christian Faith.	Chapter 7. Yahweh Against the Gods: The Bible P. 177-211		What are the advantages of Biblical faith being historical rather than philosophical?
4	Lecture 4. Religious Systems 4.1. Religions of Clan or Tribe. 4.2. African Traditional Religion. 4.3. The Good News in the World of the Occult and Spirits.	Chapter 3. God Went Away: African Religions P. 72-95		What are the negative implications of witchcraft? What is a biblical worldview of witchcrafts? How should church leaders in Africa deal with Christians who continue to visit healers or engage in witchcraft?
5	Lecture 4. Religious systems 4.4. Hinduism.	Chapter 4. All Is Brahman: Hinduism P. 96-124		What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Hindu approach to pluralism? Why would Muslim and Christian

				communities in India prefer a secular approach to pluralism?
6	Lecture 4. Religious systems 4.6. Shintoism: Another Religion of Nation. 4.7. Buddhism.	Chapter 5. Peace Without God: Buddha P. 125-155		There is a paradox in Buddhism between salvation and compassion. What is your approach to compassionate service among people?
7	Lecture 4. Religious systems 4.8. Traditional Chinese Religions. 4.9. Questions and Answers. 4.10. Confucianism.	Chapter 6. Ignore the Gods: Confucius and Plato P. 156-176	ESSAY # 2 The significance of relationship in Confucianism and Christian Church.	
8	Lecture 4. Religious systems 4.11. Christian Faith.	Chapter 9. The Wounded God: Messiah P. 246-278		What does the New Testament mean when it refers to the church as bringing healing to the nations?
9	Lecture 4. Religious systems 4.12. Islam.	Chapter 10. Allah Without Associates: Islam P. 279-316		The Temple Mount in Jerusalem is central in the account of the miraj. The Jewish and Muslim communities are in conflict over the issue of control of Jerusalem? What reasonable suggestions do you have for the resolution of the conflict?
10	Lecture 4. Religious systems 4.14. Judaism. 4.15. Biblical Foundations of the Scientific Revolution. 4.16. The Enlightenment: a Massive Transformation. 4.17. Questions and Answers. Lecture 5. Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well	Chapter 8. The God of Abraham: Israel P. 212-245 Chapter 11. Freedom from the Gods: The Enlightenment P. 317-348		What is the effect of the Enlightenment on the global community? In what ways had biblical faith and the church planted the seeds in European soul which brought forth the Enlightenment?
11	Exam	A personal response on the book	<i>The Gospel is good news for _____.</i>	