Wayland Mission Statement: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Course Title and Number: RLGN/PHIL 5310 HI01 World Religions

Term: Winter 2017

Name of Instructor: Dr. Brent Schlittenhart

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address: Office: 808-488-8570; Home: 808-234-6960; schlittenhartb@wbu.edu; or schlittenhartb@yahoo.com; Please use the wbu.edu email for primary correspondence.

Office Hours, Building, and Location: The professor is available by appointment. Office Location is 95-1091 Ainamakua Drive, Mililani, HI 96789

Class Meeting Time and Location: Monday (5:30 PM-10:00 PM) at Mililani

Catalog Description: research in the origin, personalities, historical development, and basic thought of major religions of the world.

Method of Instruction: Split level

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: None


Other Books and Periodicals: The professor may provide additional articles and websites for you to read throughout the course of the term.

Course Outcome Competencies: Students will:
1. Be able to identify the fundamental beliefs and define the basic vocabulary of the major world religions.
2. Be able to discuss the significant historical events, persons, and groups related to the origin and development of the major world religions.
3. Be able to identify areas of commonality and difference between Christianity and the other major world religions which might promote an effective witness.
4. Identify and describe the sacred texts of each major world religion.
5. Analyze and critique the major beliefs as a viable worldview for today.
6. Analyze, evaluate, and explain the ways through which Christians can dialogue with people of other faiths.

Attendance Requirements—External Campuses

Students enrolled at one of the university’s external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the external campus executive director/dean. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy. A student may petition the Academic Council for exceptions to the above stated policies by filing a written request for an appeal to the executive vice president/provost.

The student is responsible for turning in all required assignments. If a student misses a class when an exam is given, arrangements must be made by the student with the professor to take the exam. Tardies and/or early departures will also count towards an individual’s attendance record.

Additional Hawaii Campus Attendance Statement

All Wayland students are expected to attend every class meeting; the minimum percentage of class participation required to avoid receiving a grade of “F” in the class is 75%. Students who miss the first two class meetings without providing a written explanation to the instructor will be automatically dropped from the roster as a “no-show.” Students who know in advance that they will be absent the first two class meetings and who wish to remain in the class must inform the instructor in order to discuss possible arrangements for making up absences.

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:
1. Each student will read the assigned readings and participate in the classroom experience.
2. Each student will take a midterm and a final exam. Material will come from the assigned readings and class notes.

3. Each student will write a research paper on specific doctrines and practices of a selected world religion. Include important persons within the world religion and his/her contribution to the foundation and development of this world religion, and a section on how Christians can effectively engage and witness to adherents of the religion. The paper needs to follow the Turabian format by using the WBU Religion Writing Lab Style Guide in form and documentation and use footnotes in the paper. The paper needs to include a title page, table of contents, and a bibliography in addition to the 10-15 pages of text and requires a minimum of twenty sources. Margins for the paper need to conform to the writing lab style guide, which states that you use 1.5 inch left margin and 1 inch margins elsewhere for the papers, 10 or 12 New Times Roman font, and double space the body of the paper. In addition to submitting the paper to the professor the body of the paper needs to be submitted through safe assignment in Blackboard.

4. Each student will write one page reflective essays. The essay needs to be a one page typed response to the question and may be used in connection with the class dialogue. The response should stimulate and demonstrate reflective thinking on the part of the student and is not a research topic.

5. Each student will write a 5-8 page book review on either *A God of Many Understandings?* or *Between One Faith and Another*. The book review needs to have a title page, an analysis and evaluation of the book’s contents highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Quotations from the book in the review can be referenced parenthetically with just the page number. The student can use book reviews from journal articles to assist in the analysis and evaluation of the book as long as they are properly documented and footnoted and then included in a bibliography page. Student will write a one page essay on the most valuable things they learned from the book that they did not write the book review on. The one page essay will be factored into the overall book review grade.

6. Each student will present and teach chapters out of *A God of Many Understandings?* or *Between One Faith and Another*. Students will receive their assigned chapters and teaching schedule early in the term.

**Resources:**
The student should request many resources through the WBU main campus library and have them mailed directly to his/her home. The Bible does not count as one of your minimum resources, however, when referencing the Bible use (Mt 1:1, NIV), when referencing a study note from the *NIV Study Bible* use the form for one general editor. **START YOUR RESEARCH EARLY!**

**Course Evaluation:**

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** A grade of incomplete is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10-15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to a grade of F. An incomplete notation cannot remain on the student’s permanent record and must be replaced by the qualitative grade (A-F) by the date specified in the official University calendar of the next regular term. An incomplete turned to a qualitative grade will be indicated by the notation I/grade on the student transcript.

**Procedure for computations of final grade**

1. Midterm exam: 20%
2. Final exam: 20%
3. Research Paper: 20%
4. Essay Average: 20%
5. Critical Book Review: 10%
6. Teaching Presentation: 10%

Late assignments will not receive full credit and will usually receive a five point minimum reduction.

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Tentative Schedule: Course Outline and Calendar**

Week 1 11/13/2017 Introduction to World Religions/Understanding Religions and Worldviews

Week 2 11/20/2017 Judaism and Christianity
Essay 1: What do you see as the most interesting concept within Judaism and why?
Required reading: Corduan 13-92

Week 3 11/27/2017 Judaism and Christianity
Essay 2: As a Christian, how would you try to share the gospel with a person of the Jewish faith?
Required reading: Articles in Blackboard

Week 4 12/04/2017 Islam
Essay 3: What is the most interesting concept within the Islam faith and why?
Week 5 12/11/2017 Islam
Midterm Exam Take Home Due Week 6
Required reading: Corduan 138-167

Week 6 12/18/2017 Baha’i and Zoroastrianism Midterm Due
Required reading: Corduan 168-206

12/19/2017—01/01/2018 Christmas Break

Week 7 01/08/2018 Traditional and Native American Religions
Required reading: Corduan 207-266

01/15/2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No Class

Week 8 01/22/2018 Hinduism and Jainism
Essay 4: What would the attraction and importance of reincarnation within Hinduism be?
Required Reading: Corduan 267-312; 358-372

Week 9 01/29/2018 Buddhism and Sikhism
Essay 5: What is the most interesting concept within the Buddhist faith and why?
Book Review Due
Required reading: Corduan 313-357; 373-387

Week 10 02/05/2018 Chinese Popular Religions, Shinto and Japanese Religions
Research Paper Due and Teaching Presentations Part One if Necessary
Required reading: Corduan 388-449

Week 11 02/12/2018 Final Exam and Teaching Presentations
Sample format for essay questions, at the top of the page include the following information.
Your Name
World Religions RLGN/PHIL 5310 HI01 Winter 2017 Instructor: Dr. Brent Schlittenhart
Essay Number and Question

Additional Information:

Academic Honesty (Plagiarism): University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with penalties associated with plagiarism stated in the catalog.

Classroom Disruption
Students who disrupt a class will be directed to leave immediately and report to the external campus executive director/dean or dean of students, who will discuss with the
student the cause of the disruption. The student will return to the class only with permission of the executive director/campus dean or dean of students and faculty member involved.