

Teacher: Carolyn Vaughan
Course: Middle School World Religions
Academic Year: 2009-2010, First Trimester

Course Philosophy: The study of the world's religions is a quintessential element of education today for anyone. In understanding the various religions of the world, one can better comprehend the culture and the basic nature of other societies as well as the conflicts that may arise because of religion.

In this trimester course, you will gain a basic knowledge of the major religions of the world while studying their traditions and beliefs through reading, class discussions, and various presentations.

You will be reading about various religions of the world while gaining a basic understanding of them and how they relate to our world today. You will be comparing and contrasting these religions and putting them into context to better understand the people of our world. There will be an assessment after each unit is completed.

Course Requirements:

Text: World Religions by John Bowker
a section of a 3-ring binder with paper for notes and handouts
an assignment book for homework assignments
an open mind for new ideas and concepts

Grading: Your trimester grade will be determined by the combination of the following assessments:

Tests	40%
Quizzes	30%
Class Discussions	10%
Presentations	20%

Class Policies:

1. Come to class on time with your text, notebook, assignment book, homework, pens and pencils ready to go.
2. Participation in our discussions is essential. It is not optional.
3. Be prepared to discuss your thoughts and opinions.
4. Treat your classmates with respect at all times.
5. It is your responsibility to get the homework assignment if you are absent.
6. Be prepared for class. If you are not prepared, you will receive a zero for that day.
7. Use Academic Help if you need it.
8. Ask questions if you do not understand.

Trimester Plan:

Weekly Topics:

1. What is religion?
2. Prehistoric man and "God"
3. Judaism
4. Christianity
5. Islam
6. Hinduism
7. Buddhism
8. Confucianism
9. Taoism
10. Shinto and Japanese Religion
11. Various other religions and native religions
12. Final discussion of how religion affects our world

Middle School World Religion Outline (First Trimester)

I. Introduction to Religion

- A. Origins of religion
- B. Evolution of religion through time
- C. Geography of religion

II. Major Religions

- A. History
- B. Beliefs
- C. Traditions
- D. Holidays

III. Effects of Religion on the World

- A. Comparison of religions
- B. Political ramifications on our world