

**SCTR 19-RELIGIONS OF THE BOOK:  
JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM**  
*Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:45am-12:50pm*  
**GRAHAM 163**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Corinna Guerrero

**EMAIL:** cguerrero@scu.edu

**OFFICE HRS:** M/W/F 1:15PM-2:15PM and special exception by appointment.  
SKYPE meetings available by appointment.

**SKYPE ID:** prof.corinna.guerrero

**OFFICE:** Kenna Hall Office #315

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each week students engage a new set of questions about the formation, history, theology, sacrality, politics, as well as issues of authority and gender concerning the "Abrahamic" traditions. Over the course of the quarter students investigate in a lecture/discussion format the question that our textbook's title raises: *What do our neighbors believe?* Investigations of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam occurs through primary sacred texts (i.e. TaNaK, Old Testament & New Testament, and Qur'an), secondary readings, and respectful observation at local centers of worship. Students are encouraged to develop their understanding of each religion from the standpoint of how that religion sees itself in the world. In the process engaging and investigating the "Abrahamic" traditions students are given the opportunity to question and explore for themselves the role of religion, God, *ha-shem*, *Allah*, the deity, the Ultimate in their lives and/or the lives of the world around them.

- Students are required to bring their text books to class every day.
- No prior knowledge or association with the named western religions is necessary for enrollment in this course.

This course satisfies the Religious Studies 1/Religion, Theology, and Culture 1 requirement.

**CORE CURRICULUM LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Students in this course will:

**Objective #1** - Describe and compare the central religious ideas and practices from several traditions or within one, and from two globally distinct regions. (Students will satisfy this objective through class discussion, quizzes, reflection papers, worship group presentation, and final paper.)

**Objective #2** - Use critical approaches to reflect upon their own beliefs and the religious dimensions of human existence. (Students will satisfy this objective

through class discussion, reflection papers, worship group presentation, self-evaluation, and final paper.)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Introduce students to a basic understanding of the central texts, traditions, and practices of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
2. Critically reflect through written, oral, and aural sources upon religious belief and practice as well as what religion discloses about humanity in its quest for the sacred. This will also offer students an opportunity to reflect on (their own) beliefs, religious experiences, and probe how religion functions in their lives and/or in the lives of others.
3. Introduce students to central religious ideas and practices of Judaism, Christianity and Islam through weekly attention paid to their sacred writings (TaNaK, Old Testament and New Testament, and Qur'an). This includes an introduction to contextual and comparative interpretive methodologies.
4. Explore the diversity within each religion, its sacred texts, and its popular religiosity through written, oral, and aural sources.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. Ali, Abdullah Yusuf. *The Meaning of The Holy Qur'an*.
2. *New Oxford Annotated Bible* (New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) 4th ed. **or** *HarperCollins Study Bible: Student Edition with Apocrypha/Deuterocanonical* (New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), Fully Revised & Updated
3. Greenstein, Howard, Kendra Hotz, and John Kaltner. *What do our neighbors believe? Questions and Answers on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
4. Additional required texts for reading will be posted on Camino.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

**Class Attendance, Preparation, and Critical Engagement (15%)** Fifteen percent of the overall grade for this course is determined by the student's daily: 1) preparation for class (i.e. completion of reading/movie/song assignments for the day; 2) attendance in class; and 3) thoughtful, informed, and/or reflective questions and/or comments about the reading. **Satisfies Core Curriculum Objectives #1 & #2.**

**Quizzes (10%)** Students are required to complete **two online quizzes** posted through the course Camino page. Each quiz will cover the material prior to the quiz date and are not cumulative. Each quiz will be an assortment of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and True/False questions. *There are no make-up quizzes.* **Satisfies Core Curriculum Objective #1.**

**Reflection Essay Papers (20%)** Students are required to type **two** 2-3page, single-spaced, 1" margins, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, Turabian/Chicago footnotes, bibliography, thesis statement underlined, stapled reflection essays during the quarter (opposite of quiz weeks) situating the assigned reading, movies (and/or presentations) within the scope of the week's topic and class lecture/discussion thus far. **Satisfies Core Curriculum Objective #1 & #2.**

**Expressions of the Sacred Presentation (20%)** Students will be assigned to small groups (2-4 person groups) that are responsible for giving a 30 minute group presentation to the class in the second half of the quarter. (The size of the group and the length of the presentation are dependent upon size of enrollment.) The small group will focus their project around a core principle and organize a presentation according to Presentation Guideline. **Satisfies Core Curriculum Objectives #1 & #2.**

**Self and Peer Evaluation (10% = 5% and 5%)** Each student will write an evaluation of their own experience of the worship service as well as the participation of the other members of Worship Group Presentation as outlined in the Self and Peer Evaluation Guideline. **Satisfies Core Curriculum Objective #2.**

**Final Paper (25%)** The Final for the course is a positioned reflection paper on one of four preselected topics chosen by the instructor. The topics will cover material from the entire quarter. **Satisfies Core Curriculum Objectives #1 & #2.**

**GRADING SCALE:**

A	94-100	C+	77-79	D-	60-63
A-	90-93	C	74-76	F	59 & BELOW
B+	87-89	C-	70-73		
B	84-86	D+	67-69		
B-	80-83	D	64-66		

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

**Regular on-time attendance is a mandatory** expectation for passing the course. Excused absences must be requested in advance of the class session to be missed and require approval from the instructor. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in the lowering the student's course grade through the participation grade. More than 4 unexcused absences will result in an **F grade** for the course.

Regular tardiness to class will result in the lowering of the student's overall grade through a lowered participation grade.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY:**

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources at the outset of the quarter. The Disabilities Resources office is located in Benson Center 216, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students should make instructor aware of any accommodations after consulting with Disability Resources. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM POLICY:**

- The study of religion and sacred scriptures/religious literatures are older than the texts themselves. As a result, there are very few genuinely "unique" or "original" ideas. **Therefore, it is the expectation that all written, presented, and discussed work as it pertains to this course reference the "chain of thought" the student is utilizing to**

make her/his point. Being able to articulate your thought from the thoughts of others is at the heart of academic integrity.

- Footnotes and a formal bibliography are required on all papers. This course requires footnotes in Turabian/Chicago style.
- see - [eturabian.com](http://eturabian.com)

This course follows the definition of Academic Integrity as described by Santa Clara University. For more see the following: <http://www.scu.edu/provost/policies/upload/Academic%20Integrity%20Protocol.pdf>

This course stands by the following definitions of plagiarism as found on the SCU library website: <http://libguides.scu.edu/plagiarism>.

**"A Definition of Plagiarism"**

- 1) Dishonest - Taking credit for someone else's work.
  - 2) Stealing - Putting your name on someone else's paper.
  - 3) Cheating - Putting one's name on someone else's phrases.
  - 4) Wrong - Putting one's name on something that's paraphrased.
  - 5) Theft - Taking someone else's idea.
  - 6) Lazy - "Recycling" your old material.
  - 7) Irresponsible - Failure to put a quote in quotations marks, or providing incorrect information about where a source came from.
- From Naomi Rockler-Gladen"

FOR MORE SEE - <http://libguides.scu.edu/content.php?pid=99468&sid=748332>

**LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE**

**(COURSE LEGEND)**

WK	DATE	LECTURE TOPICS & READING ASSIGNMENTS	
		(C) CAMINO READINGS (G) GREENSTEIN, ET AL.	(ST) SACRED TEXTS
1	3/30 (M)	<p><i>LECTURE/QUESTION-</i> Introduction to course, syllabus, readings. Why study western religions?</p> <p><i>ASSIGNMENT FOR W-</i> Focus questions for reading: What can you tell about a religion by reading the beginning of it's canon? (ST) [HB/OT] Genesis 1-2; [NT] Matthew 1; Mark 1, Luke 1; John 1; [Q] Surah 1. (G) chapter 3 (35-50) [read Greenstein throughout the week] .</p>	

**4/1** *DISCUSSION*- What is a canon? Structural Overview of TaNaK, Christian canon...s, and Qur'an.  
(W) *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR MONDAY*- Who is Abraham? What is his religion? (ST) [HB/OT] Genesis 12-25; [NT] Matthew 1; Romans 4; [Q] Surahs 2:122-129, 19: 41-50, 33:7; (C) "Bakhos' Abridged Introduction" [1-10]; Kaltner "Abraham" [87-131]

**4/3** *LECTURE/DISCUSSION- NO CLASS - GOOD FRIDAY*  
(F)

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**2** **4/6** *LECTURE/DISCUSSION*- The Abrahams of the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Qur'an  
(M) *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- (ST) [HB/OT] Genesis 16-17, 21-22, 24-50 (35:27-29); 1 Chronicles 1; [NT] Gospel of Matthew 1:2, 8:11, 22:32, Gospel of Mark 12:26; [Q] 3:65-67; (cf. Kaltner pp. 89-92) 11:69-82.

**4/8** *LECTURE/DISCUSSION*- Sarai/Sarah and Hagar/Hajar  
(W) *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR F*- (ST) [HB/OT] Genesis 12-18, 20-23; [NT] Galatians 4-5; [Q] none. (Think: why no Qur'an?)

**4/10** *LECTURE/DISCUSSION*- Women in Sacred Scripture  
(F) *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR M*- (C). "Conflict and Coexistence in Jewish Interpretation" [101-125], "Islamic Hagar and Her Family" [149-167].

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**3** **4/13** *LECTURE/DISCUSSION*- Women in the Traditions  
(M) *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- [HB/OT] Genesis 16-17, 25:7-18; 28:6-9; [NT] Galatians 4; Romans 9; Hebrews 11 [Q] 2:125-129; 6:86; 19:54-55; 21:85.

**4/15** *DISCUSSION*- To be a Son, or To NOT be a Son.  
(W) *MINI WRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR F*- Based upon class readings, lectures, and discussions, *what is 'sacred text'? How are "scriptures" different from 'sacred texts'?*

**4/17** *LECTURE/DISCUSSION*- Sacred Text versus Scripture  
(F) *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR M*- (G) chapter 2 [18-34].

**Take online QUIZ on Camino before Monday 4/20 11:55pm. [QUIZ 1]**

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**4** **4/20** *LECTURE*- Dates, People, and Places.  
(M) *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- (ST) Exodus 3; Psalm 84; Gospel of John 2:13-22; 1 Corinthians 3, 2 Corinthians 6; Q 48:25-27. (If you have the time, start the movies early.)

**4/22** *LECTURE/DISCUSSION*- What is a "sacred space"?  
(W) *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR F*- (C) MOVIES—**Art of Faith: Judaism** (<https://santaclarau-kanopystreaming-com.libproxy.scu.edu/node/46592>); **Art of Faith: Christianity**

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(<https://santaclarau-kanopystreaming-com.libproxy.scu.edu/node/50667>); **Art of Faith: Islam** (<https://santaclarau-kanopystreaming-com.libproxy.scu.edu/node/50665>)

- **Ref. Essay No. 1 Prompt Posted**

**4/24**      *DISCUSSION*- Construction of "sacred space".  
(F)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR M*- Focus questions for reading: Who or what leads these religions? And when does that authority begin? (ST) Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5:4-21, Exodus 28, Leviticus 8-9, Psalm 113, Ezra 4-6; Galatians 2, Romans 16; Q 2:163, 247, 255, 263.

**Reflection Essay due at the beginning of class on Monday 4/27. [REFLECTION PAPER NO. 1]**

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**5**      **4/27**      *LECTURE*- So ... monotheism is not the first of the ten commandments???.  
(M)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- (G) chapter 4 [51-67].

**4/29**      *LECTURE*- Who's in charge?  
(W)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR W* - (C) "Monotheism", "Monotheism no.2", "Nicene Creed", "God and his Attributes" [316-331]; "Monotheism and the religion of Ancient Israel" [21-43].

**5/1**      *DISCUSSION*- What is monotheism for these religions?  
(F)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR T*- (G) chapter 5 [68-83];

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**6**      **5/4**      *LECTURE*- Divine and Human Nature  
(M)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- (ST) *satan*/Satan: [HB/OT] Job; [NT] Mark 1, Matthew 4; [Q] 7:22-25, 19:41-50, 49:13; (C) "Satan" [224-228].

**5/6**      *LECTURE*- "Get behind me Satan": Adversary, Devil, or the Evil One?  
(W)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR F*- (G) chapter 6 [84-100];

**5/8**      *DISCUSSION*- Practices.  
(F)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR M*- (P) chapter 7 [120-151].

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**7**      **5/11**      *LECTURE*- Prayer  
(M)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- Find a song that taps into the joys or the difficulties of the divine -human relationship.

**5/13**      *LECTURE*- Prayer  
(W)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR F*- (G) chapter 7 [101-117],

**5/15**      *LECTURE*- Relationships  
(F)      *ASSIGNMENT FOR M*- TBD (WAITING ON PUBLISHER PERMISSION)

**Take online QUIZ on Camino before Monday 5/18 11:55pm. [QUIZ 2]**

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- 8      5/18      *LECTURE*- Women Speak about Faith and Customs  
(M)      *ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- TBD (WAITING ON PUBLISHER PERMISSION)
- 5/20      *LECTURE*- Women Speak about Faith and Customs  
(W)      *ASSIGNMENT FOR F*- PREPARE FOR PRESENTATIONS  
            • **Ref. Essay No. 2 Prompt Posted**
- 5/22      *LECTURE*- STUDENT PRESENTATIONS  
(F)      *ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- SELF & PEER EVALUATIONS + Presentation Write-Up

**REFLECTION ESSAY due any time at the beginning of class from Wednesday 5/27 - Monday 6/1.  
[REF. ESSAY NO. 2]**

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- 9      5/25      *LECTURE*- **NO CLASS - MEMORIAL DAY**  
(M)
- 5/27      *LECTURE*- STUDENT PRESENTATIONS  
(W)      *ASSIGNMENT FOR F*- SELF & PEER EVALUATIONS + Presentation Write-Up
- 5/29      *LECTURE*- STUDENT PRESENTATIONS  
(F)      *ASSIGNMENT FOR M*- SELF & PEER EVALUATIONS + Presentation Write-Up  
(G) chapter 8 [118-133].
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- 10      6/1      *LECTURE*- Community Care  
(M)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR W*- (G) chapter 9 [134-150].
- 6/3      *LECTURE*- What is the future of religious conversation?  
(W)      *RDG ASSIGNMENT FOR F*- Assemble final questions from the course.
- 6/5      *LECTURE*- What is the value of sacred text, literature, narrative, etc. for a community?  
(F)      **FINAL PAPER TOPICS ASSIGNED.**

**FINAL PAPERS DUE in HARD COPY  
to Religious Studies Department  
by noon 6/12.**

**LATE papers will be given a FAILING grade.  
(It is the same as missing a final exam.)**