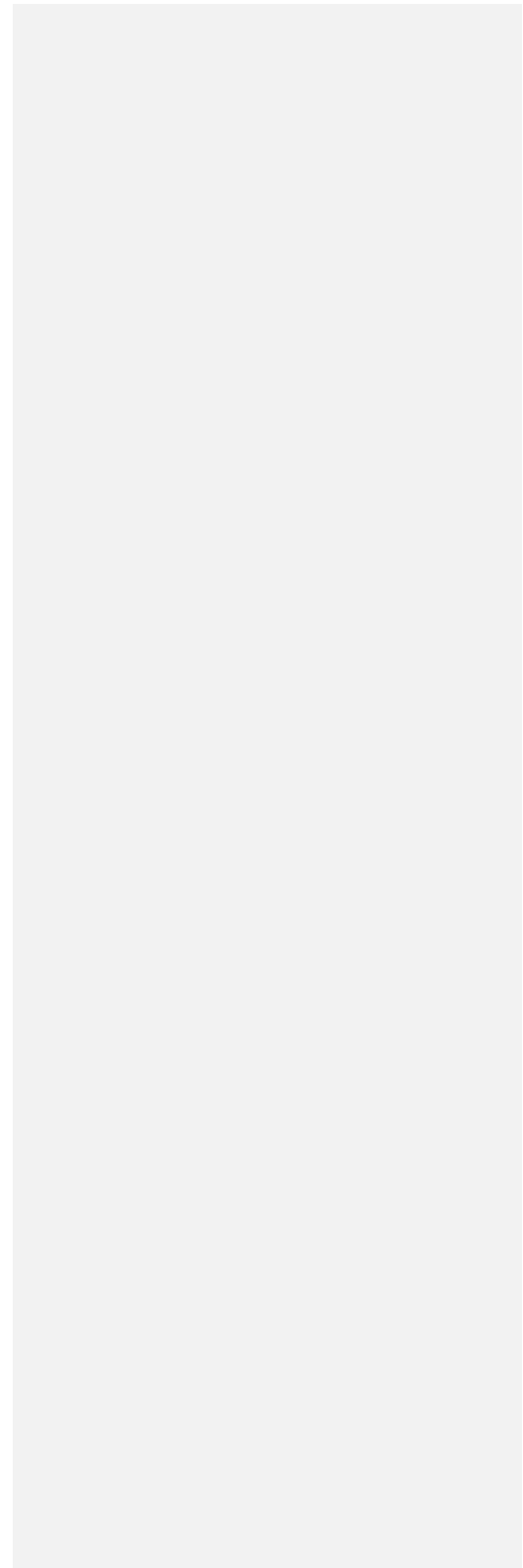


# WORLD RELIGIONS (RS 142)

Westmont College

Dr. Charles Farhadian

Adams 216, T/Th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.



helps students think critically about the nature of religion and cultures and their connections globally, c) and to help students learn to appreciate and engage the world's religions to gain confidence to encounter and engage people and cultures from different religions and regions.

Commented [CF3]: Assessed through an essay question on the final examination.

In this course, students should expect to be able to engage in the following:

1. Describe the similarities and differences between the global religions.
2. Analyze the contributions of religions to society, culture, and to personal and communal betterment. Analyze drawbacks to how religions might curtail these domains.
3. Analyze Christian uniqueness in the context of global religions.

Commented [CF4]: Assessed through written assignments, in which students need to articulate social and cultural impacts of religion across the globe.

Commented [CF5]: Both papers require reflection on the similarities and differences between a given religion and Christianity, with a view of seeking to underscore transnational religious and cultural dynamics.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation (10%). Attendance is mandatory and subject to the policies of Westmont College. Failure to appear for any examination will result in an "F" for that examination. Toward your attendance grade, you are asked to attend the site visitation to the Hindu Temple (see Reading Schedule for date).

2. Two Papers (30%). Each paper counts 15%. Papers will be graded on the basis of content, grammar, style, and presentation (see *Grading Information* and *Instructions for Paper Formatting* sections below). Rules regarding plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Papers should be 2000 words in length. Please italicize all book titles and foreign words. Note: as a reminder, backup all your work, especially your papers, as extensions will not be given due to computer problems.

Commented [CF6]: Both papers are comparative in nature, seeking to explore Christian uniqueness as well as similarities between Christianity and other religious traditions: e.g., Compare the biblical notion of "God" with the quranic notion of "Allah, describing how those conceptions impact societies across the globe.

3. Two Examinations (30%). Each examination counts for 15% toward your course grade.

4. Final Examination (30%). The final examination is cumulative.

## GRADING INFORMATION

Grading criteria include correctness, completeness, precision, depth, grammar, presentation, and coherence of your answer. The importance of the argument is also important in evaluating papers. The following is a brief explanation of how I distinguish among grades.

100-90%: Superior work that involves something more than mere competence. This work entails depth of analysis, imaginative insight, careful synthesis of the material, and an attention to detail that hints at a nuanced and subtle analysis. This level work requires superb grammar, presentation, and content. This level of work is distinguished from lower levels by its qualitative difference.

89-80%: Good work that is solid, on target, and competent. It does not mislead. This level work states the important points and explains them adequately and competently. Work at this level attends carefully to the assignment, fulfilling each component of it. In examinations this requires

answering th



Date	Topic	Assignment
8/29 (Tu)	Welcome & Introduction to the <b>course</b>	
8/31 (Th)	Class Discussion	Prepare and discuss your assigned chapter from <i>Neglected Trinity</i> with your team.
9/5 (Tu)	Introduction to the Nature and Study of Religion: Theories	1) Farhadian, pp. 1-38 2) Eliade, Introduction, chapters 1-2 3) Miller ( <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> ), pp. 21-47
9/7 (Th)	The Nature and Study of Religion: Mircea Eliade	1) Farhadian, pp. 38-58 2) Eliade, chapters 3-4 3) Miller, pp. 49-87
9/12 (Tu)	Hinduism: Indus Valley Civilization: <b>Veda</b>	1) Farhadian, pp. 59-78 2) Miller, pp. 89-154
9/14 (Th)	Hinduism: <i>Upanishad</i>	1) Farhadian, pp. 78-86
9/19 (Tu)	Hinduism: <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>	1) Farhadian, pp. 87-101 2) Note: Take <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> to class
9/21 (Th)	Guest: Josh Michaels, Pakistan and elsewhere	The Bible in Islam: readings, TBD
9/26 (Tu)	Hinduism: Modern Reformers	1) Farhadian, pp. 101-114 2) Handouts: Modern Hindu Reformers
9/28 (Th)	Examination #1	Study
10/3 (Tu)		



11/28 (Tu)	Islam: Film, <i>The Color of Paradise</i> (Iran)	PAPER #2 DUE
11/30 (Th)	Guest: Dr. Viji Cammauf (Founder, Little Flock Children's Homes, India)	Canvas: Selection from Maharaj, <i>Death of a Guru</i>
12/5 (Tu)	Mormonism	1) Farhadian, pp. 468-479 2) Handouts
12/7 (Th)	Last Day of Classes Introduction to Theology of Religions	Newbigin, <i>Finality of Christ</i> (in its entirety) -student presentations on <i>Finality of Christ</i>

FINAL EXAMINATION

RS-142-1: Dec. 13 (Wednesday), 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.