

World Religions & Comp. Denominations



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Overview

This two-semester course will briefly examine major world religions such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism as well as various Christian denominations, cults, and world practices. This is basically a training course in which students will learn to apply their knowledge of Biblically based Christian doctrine in a response to the teachings of Christian cults and non-Christian world religions.

Goals:

To be able to develop an understanding of each of the following

- What it means to be: a Lutheran, Christian, faith-filled child of God.
- Views of the sacraments, salvation, contemporary issues, the Word, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, our calling, etc.
- General characteristics of cults
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Latter Day Saints
- The Science Religions
- The "New Christian Religions"
- Western forms of Hinduism (including the New Age Movement)
- Islam
- Judaism
- Student led discussions of various evangelical Christian religions/denominations
- And possibly others if time permits

Methodology

- Lecture and other teacher presentation
- Class discussion of theological events and issues
- Individual student and group oral presentations
- Small group discussion

Materials

- How to Respond: the Cults
- How to Respond: Jehovah's Witnesses
- How to Respond: Muslims
- How to Respond: the Latter Day Saints
- How to Respond: the New Age Movement

- Bible with concordance
- Binder w/notepaper

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify what it means to be a Lutheran and what they believe.
- Create his/her own definition of cult and demonstrate knowledge of the general characteristics of cults.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the basic history and teachings of the religions studied.
- Evaluate the covered religions from a Biblical viewpoint.
- Identify reasons why cults are becoming more and more popular in the United States.
- Demonstrate the skill of effective Christian witness to cult members and members of non-Christian beliefs through oral presentations.

Extra Credit

- Students may receive extra credit in special circumstances only by arrangement with and by special permission of the instructor.

Classroom Expectations:

The student is responsible for his/her behavior inside and outside the classroom. I have composed a list of specific rules, which I find extremely beneficial for the success of the student while he/she is in the classroom.

- Be prepared when the bell rings.
- Active participation is required at all times. You will not be allowed to sleep.
- Absolutely no backtalk will be tolerated.
- Maintain supplies and equipment or you will be responsible for replacing the damaged items.
- Routinely clean your work space and shared equipment.
- Be respectful to yourself, the teacher, and your peers.

Consequences for Not Adhering to Expectations

- 1st Time – Warning
- 2nd Time – Side Bar
- 3rd Time – Contact home
- 4th Time – Administrative office will be involved

Evaluation

- Homework/Binder checks – 30%
- Participation – 10%
- Oral and written research projects – 30%
- Unit Tests/Quizzes – 30%

Cell Phones and Electronics:

Cell phones and electronics are not to be a distraction. They are to be placed in the designated spot or in your locker. We will abide by what the administration sets in our handbook.