

Melrose High School Syllabus

Department: Social Studies

Course Title: 388 World Religions

Course Description:

World Religions is an honors level elective Social Studies course which will examine religion through a historical, social, political, and economic lens. Students will understand the connection between religion and society, and the many way these two ideas are intertwined. By looking at both the origins of religion and our modern world, students will have a fuller understanding of the beliefs, culture, and conflict surrounding the religions of the world.

We will cover a variety of religions from all over the world throughout the year, examining each through historical, cultural, and sociological contexts. Units of study will include Ancient Religion, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Eastern Religions, African Religions, and Cults and Modern Religions.

MHS Learning Expectations:

- Write effectively using standard written English.
- Demonstrate the ability to read effectively.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.
- Demonstrate good citizenship.
- Demonstrate an understanding of tolerance and diversity, and respect for themselves, others and their school.

Essential Questions:

- What societal factors shape religions and religious beliefs?
- How can a religion shape and impact the society in which it is practiced?

<u>Students will know:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The history of the formation and growth of major Global Religions.● The relationship between religion and the society where it is practiced.● The relationships and tensions between various religions throughout history.	<u>Students will be able to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Compare and contrast different religious traditions from around the world.● Examine the growth and changes in world religions from their foundation to today
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Major Units of Study:

Introduction to World Religions
Religion in the Ancient World
Christianity
Judaism
Islam
Eastern Religions and Philosophy
Religions of Africa
Cults and Modern Religions

Primary Course Materials: Students in World Religions should have a designated World Religions folder and notebook. Students may be asked to turn in pages from their notebooks, so spiral bound notebooks or loose leaf paper in binders are preferred. There is no textbook for this class, sources will include newspapers, online resources and new media found both at school and at home.

Major Assignments and Grading: The major assignments for this course will be primarily based on both short term and long term research projects. Working in both groups and individually, students will use a variety of media sources to find a better understanding of the world in which they live.

The grades for each term will be determined based upon class participation, class discussion, homework, and student work on both long and short term assignments.

Midyear & Final Exams: Midyear and Final Exams will be given. These exams count as 10% of the respective semester grade. The average of the first and second quarter grades will count 90% in determining the first semester average. Similarly, the second semester average will include the average of third and fourth quarter grades at 90% and final exam at 10%. The average for the entire year will be the average of both semesters. Senior students will be asked to complete a final assessment at the end of both the third and fourth quarter.

Q1 = 22.5% Q2 = 22.5% Midterm = 5% Q3 = 22.5% Q4 = 22.5% Final = 5%