This course attempts to understand the nature of religion by looking at some foundational ideas, texts, and figures in a variety of religious traditions. We will look at differing approaches to the study of religion, and explore what human beings have seen as the ultimate meanings and purposes of existence. Our goal is to comprehend better the varieties of religious experience and expression in the world. We shall assume that religion has many dimensions and that answers to religious questions are manifold.

The course has two main aims: first, for you to become more informed about the ultimate concerns of others, past and present; second, for this information to make available new understandings of yourself and others. At times you should ask yourself: what is true, and why? Why are people religious? Do people really believe this or that? What do I believe, and why? Remember, learning about others should teach you about yourself.

Regular attendance is expected (come on time, but come even if late), and roll is taken. If you miss five or more classes, your grade can be lowered automatically unless you have a legitimate and documented excuse. If you have a problem affecting your course participation, or must miss class, let me know. There will be lots of discussion, and questions are welcome. All topics are open, but civil and respectful discourse is required. You are also expected to read (and think about) the assignments before class. The readings are the "raw material" with which we shall build our understandings. Bring books to class for reference.

The primary determinant of your grade will be three exams, equal in value, which include both identification and essay questions. They will cover material from lectures and readings, and are intended to bring out both academic information and personal reactions to what you are learning. Unless you contact me beforehand, only officially excused absences are permitted. The third exam is during finals. You must bring bluebooks to me before each test date, and I will keep all exams in my office until the semester ends. Occasionally one page responses to readings will also be required; they are mandatory, but ungraded. For extra credit, you may keep a journal of personal reflections on religion, and go to hear speakers or have other experiences outside of class. Extra credit does not have a specific point value, but can boost your grade to the next level if your exams are close (example of possibilities: 88+ average to A, 79+ to B).

Our primary texts are Ninian Smart's Worldviews and Christian Jochim's Chinese Religions. Also required is a booklet of short readings; all are available at the bookstore. If you have a disability which may affect your class performance, please inform me during the first week of class. Finally, feel free to see me after class or in my office.
CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Aug. 28  Introduction to course
Aug. 30  Definitions/aims  Smart: 1-7
Sept. 4   The Nacirema       Reading 1
Sept. 6   The academic study of religion  Smart: 11-15
Sept. 9   Psychological approaches  Smart: 65-70  Reading 2
Sept. 11  Sociological approaches  Smart: 132-35
Sept. 13  Modern approaches  Smart: 8-10, 15-32  Readings 3 and 4
Sept. 16  Worldviews: nationalism  Smart: 33-46  Readings 5 and 6
Sept. 18  Worldviews: scientific humanism  
            Smart: 46-54  Readings 7-10
Sept. 20  Experiential Dimension  Smart: 55-64  Readings 11 and 12
Sept. 23  Experience (devotion)  Readings 13 and 14
Sept. 25  "    " (mysticism)  Reading 15
Sept. 27  "    "      "  Reading 16  BRING BLUEBOOK
Sept. 30  Mythic Dimension  Smart: 71-86  Readings 17-19
Oct.  2   EXAMINATION
Oct.  4   Doctrinal Dimension  Smart: 87-95, 98-103  Reading 20
Oct.  7    "    "    "  Smart: 95-97  Reading 21
Oct.  9   Ethical Dimension  Smart: 104-11  Readings 22-24
Oct. 11   MID-SEMESTER BREAK
Oct. 14   "    "    "  Smart: 111-17  Readings 25 and 26
Oct. 16  Ritual Dimension  Smart: 118-30  Readings 27 and 28
Oct. 18  Social Dimension  Smart: 135-44  Readings 29 and 30
Oct. 21  Social Responsibility  Readings 31 and 32
Oct. 23  "    "    "  Readings 33-35
Oct. 25  Humanistic Psychology  Readings 36 and 37
Oct. 28  "    "    "  Readings 38-40
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td>Reading 41</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
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<td>Reading 42-43</td>
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<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>The Future of Religion</td>
<td>Smart: 145-58</td>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td><strong>EXAMINATION</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>The Chinese Worldview</td>
<td>Jochim: 1-10</td>
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<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Chinese Religious History</td>
<td>Jochim: 12-24, 27-33</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Jochim: 34-55</td>
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<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Modern China</td>
<td>Jochim: 55-60</td>
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<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Han Confucianism</td>
<td>Jochim: 60-68, 77-81, 145-47, 158-60</td>
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<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>&quot;Religious&quot; Taoism</td>
<td>Jochim: 9, 68-71, 73-76</td>
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<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Chinese Buddhism and Religion and Art in China</td>
<td>Jochim: 10-12, 82-103 (to 109 optional)</td>
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<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Taoism video</td>
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<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>Confucius</td>
<td>Jochim: 110-14, 117-27</td>
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<td><strong>THANKSGIVING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Lao-Tzu</td>
<td>Jochim: 127-34</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Practical Dimension</td>
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<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Social Dimension (family)</td>
<td>Jochim: 160-73</td>
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<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>&quot; (monastery)</td>
<td>Jochim: 173-81</td>
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<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
<td>Jochim: 182-89</td>
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**FINAL EXAM**  Monday, 8:30, Dec. 16 (10 MWF)  
                 Friday, 11:30, Dec. 20 (1 MWF)
BOOK AND ARTICLE SELECTIONS FOR RELI 10013


6. The Pledge of Allegiance


