

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SEMINARY
2075 EAST MADISON AVENUE • EL CAJON • CALIFORNIA 92019–1108

RE 403, World Religions

Sections A & OA

A Blended Course

Fall 2016, Module 1

September 6, 2016 – October 18, 2016 for On-Campus Students

September 6, 2016 - October 23, 2016 **for On-line Students**

Tuesdays, 7:00-10:00 PM

Professor: Sohrab Ramtin

DMin., Candidate, Southern California Seminary

ThM, Southern California Seminary

MDiv, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

BA Physics, Point Loma Nazarene University

BA Mathematics, Point Loma Nazarene University

scramtin@socalsem.edu

Cell: 858-232-9092

Office: 619-583-8295

Course Description

A study of the beliefs and practices of Judaism, Islam, Baha'i religion, Zoroastrianism, Traditional African religions, Native American religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Chinese popular religions, Shinto and Japanese religions. The doctrines and practices of each religion are analyzed in light of the absolute truth of the Scriptures. Strategies to establish a Christian witness to the uniqueness of Christ are developed. *3 Units.*

COURSE DELIVERY METHOD

This course is delivered on the main campus in El Cajon, Tuesdays from 7 pm- 10 pm. For the on-line students the lectures will be recorded and made available via the Black Board. The method of delivery is through engaged discussions, questions and answers. **You are expected to participate in the discussion board of the course black board.**

Professor's Comment

This course will focus on assisting students in gaining a deep understanding of major world religions and how to witness to them for Christ. We shall also study some of the foundational world views since world religions cannot be separated from their philosophical sources.

About Your Professor

Sohrab Ramtin was born and raised in a Muslim family in Iran. He was a practicing Muslim. He came to the saving knowledge and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in 1981. He is involved in the following ministries:

Pastor of Iranian Christian Church of El Cajon

Pastor of Iranian Christian Church of San Diego

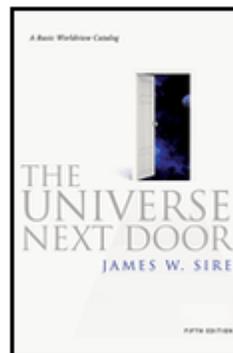
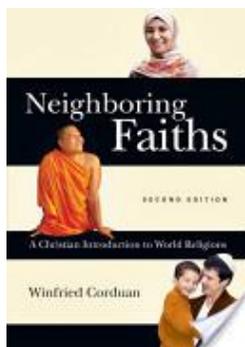
Professor of Southern California Seminary

Teacher for Satellite TV to Iran and Afghanistan

Teacher for Radio Program

Required Textbooks:

1. *The Holy Bible*. A translation based on formal equivalence, such as the *New King James Version* or the *New American Standard Bible*, is recommended for study. Paraphrases not acceptable for class work.
2. Winfried Corduan, *Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions, 2nd Edition* (Hardcover), IVP Academic, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3970-4. \$27.36.
3. James W. Sire. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog, 5th Edition*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009. ISBN 978-0-8308-3850-9. \$17.83.



Please Note: It is the students' responsibility to purchase the textbooks on time for the class.

Recommended Textbooks:

1. Beckwith, Francis J. and Parrish, Stephen E. *See the Gods Fall: Four Rivals to Christianity*. Joplin: College Press, 2000.

2. Boa, Kenneth. *Cults, World Religions and the Occult: What They Teach, How to Respond to Them*. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor, 1990.
3. Geisler, Norman L., & Saleeb, Abdual, *Answering Islam*, Baker Books, Sixth Printing, ISBN: 978-080-106-4302, \$19.99.
4. Hackett, Stuart C. *Oriental Philosophy: A Westerner's Guide to Eastern Thought*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1979.
5. Halverson, Dean C., ed. *The Compact Guide to World Religions*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1996. ISBN 9781556617041. \$10.76
6. Johnson, David L. *A Reasoned Look at Asian Religions*. Grand Rapids: Bethany House, 1985.
7. Netland, Harold. *Dissonant Voices: Religious Pluralism and the Question of Truth*. Vancouver: Regent College, 1999.
8. Sire, James W. *Naming the Elephant: Worldview As a Concept*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.
9. Tennent, Timothy C. *Christianity at the Roundtable: Evangelicalism in Conversation with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
10. Zacharias, Ravi. *Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002.
11. Josh MacDowell, *The Handbook of Today's Religions*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996.

Course Objectives

- 1- The goals for programs are found in the Seminary Catalog.
- 2- The objectives for SCS are found in the Seminary Catalog.

Methods of Instruction:

- 1- Engaged Discussions, questions and answers.
- 2- Lectures.
- 3- Weekly quizzes to stimulate and evaluate student preparation which will include Scriptures memorization.
- 4- Term Paper for in-depth research.
- 5- Videos. There shall be questions and discussions for each video.
- 6- Final Exam to crystallize the whole required readings in your mind.

Course Requirements

1. On- time attendance.
2. **You must be able to access your BB and e-mail accounts whether you are taking this course for credit or audit.**
3. Participate in class and the black board discussions.
4. Finish the required readings and **sign the reading log sheet to be turned in on the 7th session.**
5. Take weekly quizzes which cover the assigned readings for that session. 10 questions per quiz. A study guide for each quiz will be provided.

6. Take the Midterm which covers the materials in sessions 1-4. A study guide will be provided.
7. Term Paper.
Students will write an 8-page **Term Paper** (double-spaced) comparing/contrasting the **Christian concept of God and the Christian doctrine of salvation with non-Christian religions**. A minimum of two world religions must be discussed. The paper must also include a refutation of the erroneous views presented by the world religions. You need to use at least four sources (the textbooks can be used as one them). Make sure you actually cite your sources in the paper, and not simply list them in the bibliography page. The Turabian format for quoting sources should be used. In order to facilitate your work, a detailed outline of this paper is due on session 6th, **June 15, 2016**. This detailed outline should be one page sheet which includes the main points and sub-points of your paper. The Final Paper is due on session 7th, **June 22**. For the on-line students you have until the Sunday 26th of June, 2016.
8. Final examination on the required readings from midterm onward. A study guide will be provided.

Please Note:

For maximum learning students should expect to spend **10 to 15 hours per week** per course in focused study. You will have close to **700 pages of reading** for this course. Your Name and Box Number must appear on all assignments handed in.

Sequence of Instruction

Read the table like this, “At Session ____ on _____, the scheduled session content is _____, and the assignment *due that session* is _____.”

Session	Date	Session Content	Assignment Due
1	09/06/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Religions: Study and Practice • Judaism • Islam: Basics and Issues • World View • Christian Theism • Quiz #1 	<p><i>This is the pre-session assignment due Session 1.</i></p> <p>Read the Syllabus Carefully. Review the Sample Paper on Turabian Format. Study carefully “Neighboring Faiths,” pp 13-137. Study carefully “Universe Next Door,” chapters 1 &2. Quiz # 1 will over the reading assignments.</p>
2	09/13/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Radical Islam • Baha’i Faith • Zoroastrianism • Deism • Naturalism • QUIZ # 2 	<p>Study carefully “Neighboring Faiths,” chapter 4, 5, and 6. Study carefully “Universe Next Door,” chapters 3 &4. Quiz # 2 will over the reading assignments.</p>
3	09/20/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Religions • Native American Religion • Nihilism • Existentialism • QUIZ # 3 	<p>Study carefully “Neighboring Faiths,” chapter 7, and 8. Study carefully “Universe Next Door,” chapters 5 &6. Quiz # 3 will over the reading assignments.</p>
4	09/27/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinduism • Buddhism • Eastern Pantheistic Monism • The New Age • Midterm Exam 	<p>Study carefully “Neighboring Faiths,” chapter 9, and 10. Study carefully “Universe Next Door,” chapters 7 &8. Midterm Exam will cover the materials of quizzes 1-3.</p>

Session	Date	Session Content	Assignment Due
5	10/04/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jainism • Sikhism • Postmodernism • QUIZ # 4 	Study carefully “Neighboring Faiths,” chapter 11, and 12. Study carefully “Universe Next Door,” chapters 9 & 11 (skip chapter 10). Quiz # 4 will over the reading assignments.
6	10/11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese Popular Religion • Shinto and Japanese Religions • QUIZ # 5 	Study carefully “Neighboring Faiths,” chapter 13, and 14. The Detailed Outline for The Term Paper is Due Quiz # 5 will over the reading assignments.
7	10/18/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Preparation for the Final Exam • FINAL EXAM 	Term Paper is Due Study for the Final Exam.

Student Evaluation:

1. **Class Discussion and Discussion Board** (50 points)
2. **Reading of Texts and Sign the Log Sheet** (50 points)
3. **Detailed Out-Line of the Paper** (50 points)
4. **Research Paper** (200 points)
5. **Quizzes** (100 points)
6. **Mid-Term Exam** (250 points)
8. **Final Exam** (300 points)

Total: 1000 points

Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	= 95–100%	C	= 77–79%
A-	= 92–94%	C-	= 74–76%
B+	= 89–91%	D+	= 72-73%
B	= 86–88%	D	= 70-71%
B-	= 83–85%	D-	= 68-69%
C+	= 80–82%	F	= 0-67%

For more information please see the current catalogue.

Reading Log Sheet

Due on the 7th session

1. Winfried Corduan, *Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions, 2nd Edition* (Hardcover), IVP Academic, 2012. **ISBN: 978-0-8308-3970-4.**

Pages Read: From: To:

2. James W. Sire. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog, 5th Edition*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009. **ISBN 978-0-8308-3850-9.**

Pages Read: From: To:

I have read the above required readings as indicated by the number of pages.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Other Helpful Information

Attendance Policy

For the Modular Courses (21 hours), more than 10 minutes late is a Tardy, and more than 20 minutes late is an Absence. Two tardies = one absence. You are permitted one absence for a 7-week course.

Late Course Work Policy

Late work will be given 50% of the earned total points.

Academic Integrity

Southern California Seminary expects its students to be “above reproach” in their personal and academic lives (1 Timothy 3:2-7). If evidence of academic dishonesty is discovered, the Dean of the program with the Director of Student Affairs will investigate the matter and apply discipline.

Plagiarism is treating another person's work as one's own. It includes taking another's words, sentences, ideas or outlines without giving proper credit to the source, including that of copying from other students. One who aids another student in plagiarism is likewise guilty of the same deception and will receive an academic penalty. The minimum penalty is failure of the paper; test, etc. where the deception occurred. The maximum penalty is dismissal from school.

Cheating is never tolerated at SCS, and any student caught cheating will be disciplined accordingly. The discipline may result in suspension or expulsion from the program.

Library

The SDCC/SCS Library website is your gateway to library resources and information. For a complete description of the library's holdings, services, staff and access to its online collections, go to: <http://sdcc.edu/library>.

The Library Catalog accesses the library's holdings by author, title, subject, keyword, and phrase. You can remotely search the catalog through the Library Catalog link under the Find Books menu on the library home page. Library materials are loaned for a 3-week period. You can renew items 1 time through your account (My Library Info) in the Library Catalog or by contacting the library.

The library subscribes to over 80 Research Databases (under the Find Articles menu on the library home page). These selected databases are available from any Internet accessible computer and include indexing and full-text to magazines, journals, newspapers, e-reference, music, streaming video, etc. 93,260 e-books are also available. Help using the databases is available under Search Guides | Database Guides. You will need your SCS network account username and password to access these databases. The library also uses LibGuides to create discipline, course and assignment specific guides for doing library research: <http://sdcc.libguides.com/index.php>.

Interlibrary loan (ILL) is a means of borrowing books or obtaining photocopies of periodical articles from other libraries when the College Library does not own the title. This service is available for students, faculty and staff of SCS and SDCC. Forms are located on the library web site under Services | Interlibrary Loan.

We welcome and encourage any questions you may have about using the library. If you need assistance searching the online Library Catalog or the Library's Research Databases, locating materials, or with any other research or reference need, visit the Library, email the library (library@sdcc.edu), or call us at (619) 201-8747. The Seminary Librarian, Jennifer Ewing, MLIS, may be contacted at (619) 201-8682, or by email: jewing@socalsem.edu.

The library provides service more than 70 hours a week during the fall and spring trimesters and roughly 40 hours a week during the summer. Hours are posted at the library entrance, website & under the Library tab on Blackboard. During the fall and spring semesters, the library is open: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.; Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday CLOSED. Holiday, summer & finals week hours will be posted.

Turabian Format for Papers

This information is taken from Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (5th edition). It covers basic format issues you will encounter when writing your papers. Use the *Manual* to resolve unanswered questions. More information will be given during the class sessions.

Body Text

1. You will use footnotes to cite your sources. Make a complete citation for the first citation from each source. For books, a complete citation always includes: author, title, place of publication, publisher, date of publication, and page number(s). If you cite only one source by an author, only the author's name and page number is required for subsequent citations. If you cite more than one source from an author, follow the first citation of each source with a sentence explaining how you will cite it thereafter. For example, "Hereafter cited as Poe, *Tale Heart*."
2. Number all pages of the paper, including the bibliography pages. Place the page number at the bottom center of all pages.
3. Double-space text with the 1-inch margins from all four edges. Quotations of five lines or more are BLOCK QUOTES. Format block quotes by indenting ½-inch from the left margin, single-spacing the text, and placing a blank line above and below the quotation. Do not use quotation marks at the beginning or end of the quotation.
4. Single-space footnotes and bibliography entries within each entry and double-space between entries.
5. Begin each paper with a title page. Include the title of your paper, your name, the department name and course number found on the course syllabus, and the date submitted. Insert a blank sheet of paper after the title page. See Turabian, Section 1.6, for details.

6. When using a word processor, use the left margin feature. Do not use the justified-text feature. Do use the superscript feature to insert footnote numbers into the text.
7. Know the difference between primary and secondary sources, and use as many primary sources as possible.
8. Periodicals come in at least three categories—newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals. Learn how to use the indexes to find information in these periodicals.
9. Spell out numbers “one” through “ten” and those that begin a sentence.

Footnotes

1. Arrange notes in numerical order at the foot of each page (footnotes). Begin a footnote at the bottom of the page on which it is referenced. Extend it to the bottom of the following page if the note is long. See Turabian, sample 14.43.
2. Format footnote reference numbers as a superscript—an Arabic numeral typed slightly above the line. In the text, the reference number is placed immediately at the end of the material cited. In the note, the reference number is placed at the beginning, indented ½-inch. Start footnote reference numbers with 1, 2, etc. at the beginning of each chapter.
3. In the first citation of a work, include in the note the author's full name, title of the work, specific reference (volume, if any, and page number), and facts of publication (place of publication, publisher, and date of publication). Use the short-format described for subsequent notes.
4. The short format normally includes a shortened title followed by the page number. However, if the current note is from the same work cited in the immediately previous note, you may use the Latin abbreviation *ibid.* (include the period).
5. If the work has already been cited, but not in the immediately previous note, you may use either (a) author's last name, title of book or article, and page number, or (b) author's last name, page number, and the title of the work if more than one work by the same author is cited.

Examples of Notes

For other examples, see Turabian, pages 177–203. All note entries are marked with "N".

Book

¹ John Hope Franklin, *George Washington Williams: A Biography* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985), 54.

Editor

² Robert von Hallberg, ed., *Canons* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984), 225.

Article in a Journal

³ Richard Jackson, "Running Down the Up-Escalator: Regional Inequality in Papua New Guinea," *Australian Geographer* 14 (May 1979): 180.

Bibliographies

1. Bibliography entries are arranged in alphabetical order beginning on a page of their own. Do *not* classify the entries by the type of work (book, periodical, etc.). Some examples are given below. See Turabian, pages 177–203 for more. In Turabian, bibliography entries are marked with "B".
2. Format bibliographical entries flush left, with subsequent lines within the entry indented five spaces (known as a *hanging indent*).
3. Place the family name first followed by a comma and then the first name (e.g., Doe, John).
4. Use periods at the end of each main part—author's name, title of work, and facts of publication. In the case of periodical bibliographical entries, put parentheses around the dates of publication when these follow a volume number.
5. Include page numbers only when the item is a part of a whole work—a chapter in a book or an article in a periodical. Do not use *page, pages, p. or pp*, simply state the page numbers.

Examples of Bibliographical Entries

Book

Franklin, John Hope. *George Washington Williams: A Biography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985.

Editor

von Hallberg, Robert, ed. *Canons*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984.

Article in a Journal

Jackson, Richard. "Running Down the Up-Escalator: Regional Inequality in Papua New Guinea." *Australian Geographer* 14 (May 1979): 175–184

TURABIAN 33-POINT CHECKLIST

Formatting

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | The Title Page is <i>identical in all respects</i> to the sample. A blank page is not required. |
| 2. | Title page, contents, first page of text, and bibliography all start 2" from the top. |
| 3. | The title is on the first page of text is in CAPITALS and is centered. |
| 4. | On all other pages top, bottom, and side margins are 1" from the edge of the paper. |
| 5. | Text is justified left, not full justified. |
| 6. | Font is to be Times New Roman 12 point. |
| 7. | No bold fonts, underlining, or bullets are permitted. |
| 8. | Emphasis and foreign words, including Greek and Hebrew, are <i>italicized</i> . |
| 9. | Spell out 1-10 and use numerals thereafter. |
| 10. | Students are encouraged to have an editor check grammar. |
| 11. | Page number is in upper right corner, except on first page of text that is lower center. |

Sub Titles

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 12. | Sub-titles are centered, italicized, with only first letters of words capitalized. |
| 13. | Sub-sub-titles are centered, not italicized, with only first letters of words capitalized. |

Quotations	
14.	Usually a shorter quotation is preferred over a longer quotation.
15.	Usually a summary or paraphrase is better than a quotation.
16.	All ideas you have gleaned from books and other sources should be footnoted.
17.	You must block quote, single space, and indent if you have three lines of text or more.
18.	Bible quotations are noted in the text in abbreviated form along with the translation: Paul writes, "Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves" (Rom. 15:1, NASV).
Footnotes	
19.	Footnote line is 2" long. Font is either 10 or 12. Use <Insert> then <Footnote> then tab.
20.	First line of footnote is indented ½" with all other lines starting at margin.
21.	First footnote of each source is comprised of the following: <i>Note punctuation!</i> ¹ Author's first and last name, <i>Title</i> (City: Publisher, year), page.
22.	Additional footnotes are comprised of author's last name, page.
23.	Ibid. is used when referring to same work as the previous footnote. Note that Ibid. is capitalized, not italicized, and followed by a period.
24.	Footnotes are single-spaced within the footnote and double-spaced between footnotes.
25.	Book and journal titles are in <i>italics</i> .
26.	Footnote numbers are to be superscript.
27.	Do not use p. or pp. to refer to pages, simply state the page number.
Paragraphs	
28.	First lines of all paragraphs are indented ½".
29.	Each paragraph is to have only one main topic as expressed by the first sentence.
Charts	
30.	Include at least one chart, illustration, or graphical organizer.
Internet and Print Sources	
31.	Use at least five "scholarly" electronic sources and five print sources.
32.	Do not use "I" or "me", instead use "the writer..."
33.	Binding: One staple in upper left. Do not use any type of notebook. Do not punch holes.

