

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 1020: Introduction to the Western Religions

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LOCATION: Hinton, Alberta  
TIMES: Fridays - 6:00-9:00 PM  
Saturdays - 9:00 - Noon

DATES: Beginning January 8-9, 1993  
January 22-23  
February 5-6  
February 19-20  
March 5-6  
March 19-20  
April 2-3  
April 16-17 One or the other of these  
dates will be the FINAL EXAM

INSTRUCTOR: Ray Kardas  
PHONE: Work 1-539-2990 or 1-539-2063  
Home 1-539-9599

**COURSE CONTENT:**

The object of the course is to introduce the student to the major scriptural religious traditions that have shaped Western Culture: Judaism, Christianity and Islam, as well as the scriptural matrix from which these religions arose, namely the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Three assignments to be given in class, each worth 20% of the final grade. More information on these will be announced in class.
2. A final exam worth 40% of the final grade. The students will be required to:
  - a) identify key terms, names or data on these religious traditions and
  - b) write essay type responses from a list of questions that reflect the entire spectrum of the course.

NOTE: Students must pass (50%) the final examination to receive credit for the course.

**ORGANIZATION:**

The course will be divided into three parts:

1. The Old Testament or Hebrew Bible/Judaism after 70 C.E.  
January 8-9; 22-23; and February 5
2. Christianity: February 6, 19-20, March 5
3. Islam: March 6, 19-20, April 2
4. Conclusion and Summary: April 3

Formal lectures will be interspersed with films and if possible visits from guest lecturers. Due to the time structure of the course we will intersperse the lectures with class discussions on key questions related to the religious traditions. The lectures will contain aspects of the traditions not covered by the textbooks.

**TEXTS:**

Michael A. Fishbone, Judaism: Revelation and tradition  
(Harper Collins)

Denise and John Carmody, Christianity: An Introduction  
(Wadsworth)

Frederic Denny, Islam (Harper Collins)