

**Taipei American School: World Religions 2019-2020**

***Honors Seminar World Religions***

***IBSL World Religions***

***Seminar World Religions***

Teacher: Mr. Chris Ciambarella

Email: [ciambarellac@tas.tw](mailto:ciambarellac@tas.tw)

Class Website: www.mrciambarellaclass.com

**2nd Semester Overview**

This second semester will be very similar to the first semester; however, we will focus primarily on the 3 great Monotheistic Religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam- with particular in-depth study of Christianity. Like last semester, we will have a Socratic Seminar on each of these three religions for 30% of your grade. Another 30% of your grade will continue to be homework and class participation.

What is NEW this second semester is that 30% of your grade will be an INDEPENDENT PROJECT for non-IB students and an INTERNAL ASSESSMENT for IB Students. This will be a great opportunity for you to do in-depth study on anything your are interested in related to religion, philosophy, health, etc. In addition to working on these independent projects, we will also spend the first month of the semester exploring a "feminist" approach to religion and spirituality, in addition to exploring some aboriginal and indigenous religious systems and ideas.

**COURSE GENERAL SCHEDULE**

**Semester II:**

Unit 1 Work on your Independent Project/Internal Assessment

-Special study & discussion of "Feminine/Goddess" Spirituality

Unit 2 Judaism

Unit 3 Christianity

Unit 4 Islam

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

**Grading**

**Class Participation (20%)**

After each class you will complete the "Class Participation Rubric", which can be found on my website under "Week 1 World Religions Participation Rubric." Please note that your class attention and participation will determine 20% of your overall grade!

**Socratic Seminars (30%)**

Instead of quizzes, tests, and exams we have "Socratic Seminars". During these seminars students in the class are expected to prepare for and lead class discussions on assigned topics related to class. Part of your grade is your preparation and part of your grade is your participation.

**Homework & Portfolio (20%)**

Instead of tests and quizzes, most of your grade is from "homework". So I expect you to complete the assigned readings and homework & be prepared to discuss in class. You will NOT have a lot of homework, so I expect you to do the little homework that is assigned so that you will be able to participate in class activities and discussions.

You must have an "art portfolio" for this class.

**Independent Project for non-IB Students …or**

**Internal Assessment for IB Students (30%)**

I believe this project should be enjoyable for you!

For **non-IB students** you may learn about anything related to World Religions, philosophy, world cultures, etc. I will pretty much accept any topic that you are passionate to learn more about! This is a great opportunity to read and learn about something you are interested in. Here are some examples from last year's topics:

Wiccan/Witch Practices Chinese Medicine Yoga & Meditation Practice

Quantum Physics & Spirituality Bob Marley & Rastafarianism Science Fiction & Religion Learning Sanskrit Sufi Dancing

The Lord of the Rings Philosophy Chinese Calligraphy Tibet Culture

Of course, many students used this opportunity to learn more about any of the religions we are studying such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, etc.

Some students also decided to learn about other religions we did not cover, such as Shinto, Jainism, African Religions, Voodoo, etc..

For **IB students**, this 30% of your grade will be your **Internal Assessment.** So you must follow the directions for the IBSL World Religions Internal Assessment. I think you will discover that this Internal Assessment is "relatively fun and easy" also. The purpose is also for you to research and learn about ANY RELIGION or religious practice that interests you. It can be one of the religions we cover; however, it does not have to be. You can choose any religion you want. You will learn about it, read about it, and hopefully conduct interviews/field trips about it. The final IA is only 1,900 words long and is more an 'exploration' than a research paper.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE AMONG HONORS, NON-HONORS, and IB STUDENTS?**

**NON-HONORS STUDENTS**

The only difference is that for your Independent Project you are only required to research and read about it. You do NOT have to create a Final Project or Presentation. You are only graded on two things: 1)Your research and reading on the topic, and 2) A final "book report paper" about 3-5 pages long where you describe what you learned. It is NOT a research paper.

**HONORS STUDENTS**

For your Independent Project, you MUST have a FINAL PROJECT and also a FINAL PRESENTATION to the class. Or you can decide to make 1 VIDEO that counts as both your project and presentation.

**IB STUDENTS**

**On my website you should read all the information for IB Students and Internal Assessment**

**CLASS MATERIALS**

1. We have 1 new Textbook for this course! *Invitation to World Religions* Third Edition, 2019 by Jeffrey Brodd & Oxford University Press.

You will check out this textbook for you to use during the semester. You can choose to leave it at home or bring it to class with you also. I will also post the textbook readings on my website also.

1. I will also use readings from many other textbooks, books, and sources. I will always put all of these extra readings on my website.
2. YOU MUST have an ART PORTFOLIO. It MUST be like the big ones I showed you in class. You canNOT use a normal notebook with lines for this!
3. The textbook above is the only 1 official textbook for this class which TAS loans to you to use; however, there is one other 'textbook' that I use A LOT in this class called "The Illustrated World's Religions" by Huston Smith. I will copy this book's readings onto my website; however, it is a very beautiful book you may want to buy yourself. Here it is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/51RcZ5TDaCL._SX392_BO1,204,203,200_.jpg | Title: The Illustrated World's Religions  Author: Huston Smith  Paperback: 256 pages  Publisher: HarperOne; 1st HarperCollins Pbk. Ed edition (August 18, 1995)  Language: English  ISBN-10: 0060674407  ISBN-13: 978-0060674403 |

**VERY IMPORTANT CLASS CHANGES and POLICIES**

1. **PLAGIARISM**

**Plagiarism will be dealt with very seriously!**

**All the work for this class must be entirely your own.**

**If you ever copy any work from another source or another student you MUST CLEARLY state and cite this.**

**You should NEVER copy another student's work in this class. I repeat- whether for homework or seminar essays- you must never copy another student's work**

**For the seminar essays- you should NOT copy from another source on the internet. If you do you MUST CITE THIS SOURCE in the correct format**

**Any suspicions of plagiarism or copying will be sent directly to the Upper School Administration and there will be serious consequences.**

1. **MISSING AND LATE HOMEWORK**

**There is a new policy for late homework that will be followed closely**

**Any homework that is 1 day late can only get a maximum score of 90%**

**Any homework that is 1 week late can only get a maximum score of 80%**

**Any homework that is 2 weeks late can only get a maximum score of 70%**

**Any homework that is over 2 weeks late can only get a maximum score of 60%**

**You only get an extension on homework is you are Officially Absent from School, on an official school trip away from school, or if you get approval from me at least 24 hours before the assignment is due.**

1. **TURNING in HOMEWORK**

**Starting this second semester all homework (except for your Research Notetracking Sheet) will be submitted via Canvas directly.**

**DO NOT put any homework in your google homework folder any more. Just submit all homework through Canvas.**

**The only thing that you should still keep in your google homework folder is your Research Notetracking Sheet.**