

**Taipei American School: World Religions 2022-23**

***IBSL World Religions***

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**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This class begins and ends with humanity’s big questions: 1)What is the meaning of life?; 2)Is there a God?; 3)What happens after death?; 4)What does it mean to be human? During the course of this year we will explore together how different World Religions, Cultures, & Philosophies have answered these questions. A major theme of this class (and the IB Program) is to also explore if there are different “ways of knowing” the answers to these big questions through the use of different faculties: reason, emotion, faith, imagination, intuition, language, memory, and experience. The goal of this course is to assist students in the exploration of these questions by looking at how different religions, cultures, and ways of knowing have approached them. As such we will not only read about religious ideas but also experience them through doing such activities as yoga, meditation, mandala-making, tai-chi, calligraphy, field trips and guest speakers. Another goal of this class is to specifically prepare each of you to receive a high score on the May 2023 IBSL World Religions Exam!

**COURSE GENERAL SCHEDULE**

**Semester I:**

Unit 1 Hinduism

Unit 2 Buddhism

Unit 3 Taoism

**Semester II:**

Unit 4 Do your Internal Assessment

Unit 5 Judaism

Unit 6 Christianity

Unit 7 Exam Review & Preparation

**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 this is a Seminar Class, which means your class attention and participation will determine 20% of your overall grade!

**Socratic Seminars (20%)**

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.

**IB Paper 1 and Paper 2 Practice (20%)**

As we discuss each religion, you will be asked to write (and revise) practice Paper #1s and Paper #2s for each religion; as a result, you will be very prepared for the real IB Exam in May!

-Special Note: Only IBSL Juniors must take a “Semester Final Exam” in December. However, this will just count as part of this 20% grade.

**Homework & Portfolio (20%)**

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.

Every student must have an "art portfolio" for this class. The portfolio MUST be like the one the teacher showed you in class. Your art portfolio should be 'enjoyable homework' and a nice souvenir from this class. You are graded on effort, content, and artistic effort.

**Internal Assessment for IB (20%)**

This 20% 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.” The purpose is 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.

**CLASS MATERIALS**

1. We have 1 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 bring home. I will have extra copies to use in the classroom.

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:

**CLASS POLICIES**

1. **Please remember that 20% of your grade is "Class Participation". If you are not paying attention in class, surfing the internet, etc. you CANNOT get an "A" in this class. Also, if you do not speak up in class and join our discussions you cannot get an A+.**
2. **All homework turned in late will always lose a letter grade/day it is late.**
3. **Exceptions to this rule can only be made if you are officially sick/absent from class and/or for Official School Trips/Activities Extensions (IASAS, MUN, etc.).**
4. **Exceptions can also be considered for students if the student emails me a request for extension at least 24 hours in advance.**
5. **If you are given permission for an extension on a class Socratic Seminar or Activity then usually you must meet with me individually during free time to make up the seminar or activity.**

**IBSL World Religions 2020-2021 Fall Semester General Weekly Schedule**

**This is a Tentative Schedule and may change.**

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| **Date (A/B)** | **Religion** | **Major Topics** |
| **Aug 11** | Welcome | Welcome to World Religions |
| **Aug 15** | Hinduism | Intro to Hinduism Main Ideas & Yoga |
| **Aug 17** | Hinduism | YOGA CLASS #1- Wear comfortable clothes & bring a mat if you have one |
| **Aug 19** | Hinduism | YOGA CLASS #2- Wear comfortable clothes & bring a mat if you have one |
| **Aug 23** | Hinduism | Other types of yoga- Karma & bhakti yoga |
| **Aug 25** | Hinduism | Bhagavad GitaHindu gods |
| **Aug 29** | Hinduism | Historical Side of Hinduism & Gandhi |
| **Aug 31** | Hinduism | PAPER #1 PRACTICE Due |
| **Sep 2** | Hinduism | Hinduism Practices |
| **Sep 6** | Hinduism | Hinduism Festivals |
| **Sep 8** | Hinduism | Hinduism Final Review & Prepare for Seminar |
| **Sep 14** | Hinduism | **SOCRATIC SEMINAR #1 on HINDUISM**  **Paper #2 Practice Due** |
| **Sep 16** | Buddhism | Introduction to Buddhism |
| **Sep 20** | Buddhism | The Historical Buddha |
| **Sep 22** | Buddhism | Early Buddhist Teachings and Meditation |
| **Sep 26** | Buddhism | Theravada Buddhism |
| **Sep 28** | Buddhism | Mahayana Buddhism |
| **Sep 30** | Buddhism | Buddhism in Taiwan- Tzu Chi Foundation |
| **Oct 4** | Buddhism | Buddhism in Taiwan- Guest Speakers |
| **Oct 6** | Buddhism | PAPER #1 PRACTICE Due  Buddhism in Taiwan- Guest Speakers |
| **Oct 12** | Buddhism | Tibetan Buddhism |
| **Oct 14** | Buddhism | Tibetan Buddhism |
| **Oct 18** | Buddhism | TIBETAN BUDDHISM SAND MANDALA PROJECT |
| **Oct 20** | Buddhism | TIBETAN BUDDHISM SAND MANDALA PROJECT |
| **Oct 24** | Buddhism | Buddhism Review |
| **Oct 26** | Buddhism | SOCRATIC SEMINAR #2 on BUDDHISM  Paper #2 Practice Due |
| **Oct 28** | Taoism | Taoism vs Confucianism |
| **Nov 1** | Taoism | Laozi & Tao te Ching |
| **Nov 3** | Taoism | Tao te Ching Translation |
| **Nov 7** | Taoism | Zhuangzi |
| **Nov 9** | Taoism | Taoist Chinese Poetry & Calligraphy |
| **Nov 11** | Taoism | Taoist Practices in Taiwan- Guest Speaker |
| **Nov 15** | Taoism | Taoist Martial Arts Outside Activity |
| **Nov 17** | Taoism | Taoist Qi Gong Outside Activity |
| **Nov 21** | Taoism | Taoist Tai Chi Outside Activity |
| **Nov 23** | Taoism | Review of Taoism |
| **Nov 29** | Taoism | SOCRATIC SEMINAR #3 on TAOISM  Paper #1 Practice Due |
| **Dec 1** | Taoism | Review of the Semester & Preparation for Field Trip to Guandu Temple |
| **Dec 5** | Taoism | Review & Preparation for Field Trip to Guandu Temple |
| **Dec 7** | Taoism | Final Preparation for Field Trip to Guandu Temple |
| **Dec 9** | Taoism | Field Trip to Guandu Temple |
| **Dec 13** | Mock IB Exam | Review of IB Exam Paper #1 |
| **Dec 15** | Mock IB Exam | Review of IB Exam Paper #1 |
| **Dec 19** | Mock IB Exam | Mock IB Exam (Paper #1 on Hinduism, Buddhism & Taoism and Paper #2 on Buddhism) |

NOTE: Only IBSL Juniors must actually sit and take the 1st Semester Final Exam during the final exam time in the US Gym. This will be the Mock IB Exam. IBSL Seniors will just take the Mock Exam during our final week of class on Dec 15 and 19