Class Description: The purpose of this course is to compare and contrast the key ideas of religious thought across the globe in order to deepen our understanding of the sacred. To make manageable this overly large subject, we will focus on only six of the world major religions, although you are free to ask about and discuss others. We will establish a few comparative heuristics which will be employed to contrasted and compared practices, dogmas, and organizations of these great traditions in hopes of broadening the students' awarenesses of and appreciation for the philosophical and religious underpinnings of those traditions, but more importantly to enhance each student's own concepts of meaning, value, and right action.

Textbook and Access code information, including costs: Many Peoples, Many Faiths, Women and Men in the World Religions, 10th Edition. Robert Ellwood and Barbara McGraw. Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey. 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0-205-79711-0 ISBN-10: 0-205-79711-3. (The 7th or 8th or 9th Editions would be fine as well, although the page numbering will be different, and there are some small changes; however, I have copies of those books and can work from them).

Other Course Materials Required: None

Initial instructions for beginning of class: Secure one's internet access, obtain the textbook, and open one's mind.

Testing regulations (included proctoring guidelines link): All tests are on line.

Course Management System Information: none

Student Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain the origin, practices, world view, and goals of each religion studied. 2. Compare and contrast the different religions studied with regard to historical development, and view of God or the Divine. 3. Evaluate how each religion's view of what is ultimate about reality informs its teachings, doctrines, and practices. 4. Explain how modern cultural developments have impacted each religion's teachings, doctrines, and practices. 5. Articulate the nature of religion and the idea of ultimate reality that informs each religion studied. 6. Demonstrate grasp of the difference between religion and philosophy.

Useful Links: see site

Other: 1. To gain an understanding of the key ideas, institutions, and practices of religion around the world. To identify similarities and differences in these religions in hopes of appreciating the value of religious ideas. 2. To gain an introductory understanding of the religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoist. 3. To assist the student in developing and deepening his or her own understanding of the sacred and the philosophical. 4. To contrast the teaching and practices of the religions of the world with particular attention to selected topics as lessons in applied philosophical analysis. 5. To broaden the student's access to other cultures by establishing a familiarity with their core beliefs

DSPS Information: Both C.O.C. and the government (Section 508) required that students with disabilities be
granted appropriate accommodations. In order to secure these accommodations, inform the Instructor at the earliest opportunity. Steps will be taken to comply.