DESCRIPTION: A critical survey of the world’s religions, exploring beliefs, rituals, sacred texts and ethical ideals of representative religious manifestations of the past and the present. The course is intended to familiarize the student with the principal world religions from an historical and developmental perspective and to engender a profound respect for all religious manifestations. The course studies the importance given to building a just and peaceful society within religions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Students will engage in and absorb diverse perspectives and appreciate and value human diversity. (Mission ILO)
- Students will develop the tools, habits and intellectual curiosity to become lifelong learners. (Mission ILO)
- Students will consider alternative systems of thought impartially, recognizing and assessing assumptions, implications and practical consequences. (Critical Thinking ILO)
- Students will make illuminating comparisons between the approaches of different thinkers and traditions with respect to basic ethical, theological, and historical questions. (RS PLO)

PROCEDURE: We will proceed by instructor presentations, discussions, visitations, writings and films according to the attached schedule.

1) Student are required to attend classes. If you miss more than one class you will fail the course. (If you are tardy more than twice you will fail the course as this is the equivalent of one absence).

2) “Students are held accountable for all assignments in each course” (NDNU Catalog).

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic honesty is a cornerstone of our values at NDNU. If any words or ideas used in an assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when
the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. Please consult the Student Handbook for consequences, e.g. Failure, related to plagiarism.

**Average Student Workload Expectations:** Class time consists of 31.5 hours and students are expected to attend. Students are expected to engage in approximately 103.5 hours of out-of-class homework over the seven week term, or approximately fifteen hours per week. Course assignments are made in accordance with this expectation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workload Distribution</th>
<th>Hours in Class:</th>
<th>31.5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liturgical Visits</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Exam Preparation</td>
<td>25</td>
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</tbody>
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**REQUIREMENTS:**

1) **Each student will visit a liturgical service, from a tradition other than their own.** Following the visit, students will write one **5 to 6 page paper on the visit.** (See portal for further instructions.) This is due on the final day of class.

2) **Seven online quizzes.** First quiz is due by the first day of class at 6:00 pm. (See “Coursework” on Portal for Quizzes)

3) **Seven online reflections and responses due before class.** First reflection is due by 10:00 pm on Monday before the first class. (Reflections can be found in the “Forum” section of “Collaboration” on the class portal.)

**TEXTBOOKS:**

*The World’s Religions: Worldviews and Contemporary Issues* William Young  
*The World’s Wisdom: Sacred Texts in the World’s Religions* Philip Novak

**SUBJECT**  | **READINGS**  
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WEEK ONE  | *What is Religion? Primal Religions*  
Young 1, 2, Novak 8  
WEEK TWO  | *Hinduism*  
Young 3, Novak 1  
WEEK THREE  | *Buddhism and Jainism*  
Young 4, 5, 8, Novak 2  
WEEK FOUR  | *Religions of China and Japan*  
Young 6, 7, 9, Novak 3, 4  
WEEK FIVE  | *Judaism and Christianity*  
Young 10, 11, Novak 5, 6  
WEEK SIX  | *Islam and Sikhism*  
Young 12, 13, Novak 7  
WEEK SEVEN  | *New Religious Movements, the Future*  
Young 14, 19