

Religions of the Western World - Religion 102 (CRN 31247)
Winter 2015, January 6 – March 12
Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 - 11:20 A.M. - Albany Campus NSH-206

INSTRUCTOR

David Buttrick

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Email: davidbuttrick@hotmail.com. **Short questions only; please allow 24 hours for a response.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents an introduction to the kindred Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We will proceed by way of historical survey, thus highlighting the role of tradition and the ongoing interpretation of tradition; similarity, divergence and interaction between the faiths; and the historical context underlying modern controversies. This class meets LBCC Cultural Diversity Perspective requirements.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Diligent students can expect to:

- Be able to explain the core concepts and institutions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, their similarities and differences.
- Acquire experience reading and interpreting religious texts, especially scripture.
- Be able to explain how and why beliefs and practices change over time.
- Understand reasons why people believe and practice certain religion(s) rather than another, a combination, or none.
- Gain literacy in cultures not their own.
- Develop critical thinking, speech and academic writing skills.

PREREQUISITES

None, though Reading 90 and Writing 115 or above are highly recommended.

COURSE FORMAT

Our class will meet for 80 minutes each Tuesday and Thursday morning. Most of our class time will be lecture and discussion. Participation is highly encouraged and will be rewarded with extra credit (see below). Slide presentations and guest speakers can also be expected. Written assignments will be largely based upon classroom lectures. Therefore **it is very important to attend all classes.**

COURSE MATERIALS

There is one **required** textbook:

McKay, John P., et al., Understanding Western Society, Vol. 1: A Brief History - From Antiquity to Enlightenment, Bedford/St. Martins, 2011. ISBN: 9780312668884.

This should be available at the LBCC bookstore.

Additional **required** reading assignments, mostly from primary source documents, will be

