

Department of Theology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2010**
Instructor: Dr. Irfan A. Omar
Course #: THEO 4510/5510
Section: 101
Course Title: **Survey of World Religions**

Description:

In this course we will study the beginnings, nature, scope and purpose of religion by way of looking at some of the major religions of the world. These religions are divided into three major sections, each containing three traditions respectively. Thus the course will include a brief introduction to the religions of South Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism; the religions of East Asia: Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto; as well as the religions of West Asia (Middle East): Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Finally, we will also briefly look at the inter-religious dimension of these religions as well as the outgrowth of new religious movements in the last century and a half.

Required texts:

--*Living religions 7th ed* by Mary Pat Fisher
Pearson 2008
ISBN: 9780136141051

--*Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* by Bryan N Massingale
Orbis 2010
ISBN: 978-1-57075-776-1

--*Filming the gods* by Rachel Dwyer
Routledge 2006
ISBN: 9780415314251

--*Dragon flies: fiction by Chinese women*
Cornell University Press
ISBN: 9781885445155

--*The Muslim Jesus - Sayings and Stories in Islamic Literature*
Edited and translated by Tarif Khalidi
ISBN 13: 978-0-674-01115-1; ISBN 10: 0-674-01115-5