Stony Brook University
Department of Asian/Asian American Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
RLS 101 Western Religions (DEC B)
Course Instructor: Mary Diaz
Office: 1039 Humanities
Office Hours: Tu/Th 1:00-2:00
E-mail: Mallow8859@AOL.COM (Please be sure to put RLS 101 in the subject space so I don’t delete your e-mail. Also, please be aware that this is the only e-mail address that will reach me.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An historical introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Attention is given to the cultural background, art, literature, philosophy, and institutional development of each tradition.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. An understanding of the central role played by Judaic, Christian and Muslim beliefs and practices throughout human history
2. Familiarity with research methods and sources in Judaism, Christianity and Islam
3. The ability to speak with some familiarity about the history, teachings, and practices of Judaism, Christianity and Islam
4. An awareness of the differences of perspective present within Judaism, Christianity and Islam
5. An appreciation of the commonalities and differences among Judaism, Christianity and Islam

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and Make Up Policy

There will be no attendance taken in this class, group projects will occur frequently. The worst three grades (or more) will be dropped, so if a student does not attend class and misses a project, that student will receive a zero for any project that occurs that day, and that grade will be dropped. There is no way to make up a project or quiz. If a student shows proper documentation for an extended absence (to be discussed in class) that student will be excused for the projects or quizzes specified by the documentation. A missed exam can always be made up.

Description and schedule of Required Readings and/or Assignments.

Please see Meeting Schedule below.

Exams
Exam 1 25% March 6
Exam 2 25% April 10
Final 25% May 14 (5:30-8:00 in this room)

GRADING:

Exam 1: 3/6 (25% of grade)
Exam 2: April 10 (25% of grade)
Participation projects—to be explained in class (25% of grade)
Final: May 14, 5:30-8:00 in this room (25% of grade)

MEETING SCHEDULE
List each class meeting and assignments and topics for each. Include Exam Schedule and assignment due dates

CLASS PROTOCOL

Please don’t use cell phones or computers unless I ask you to.

CLASS RESOURCES

Library resources
Blackboard
MEETING SCHEDULE (This schedule is tentative! Please be sure to check blackboard regularly as I will post any class cancellations or changes in exam dates as soon as I’m aware of them.)

1/28: intro. Judaism
1/31: Tanakh and history
2/4: verses on the covenant, radical monotheism and monolotry, afterlife (see blackboard)
2/6: more Tanakh and history
2/11: Intertestamental history and philosophy
2/13: Rabbinical Judaism and Oral Torah
2/18: verses demonstrating some theories of Oral Torah (see blackboard)
2/20: history and philosophies of medieval Judaism
2/25: film (Wisdom of Faith: Judaism)
2/27: film
3/4: review
3/6: Exam 1
3/11: Christian philosophy as presented in the gospels (Bring Bible) Christianity
3/13: Christian Canon (Please download reading on Blackboard)
3/18 and 3/20: no class
3/25: Trinity, Christology, and heresies
3/27: Medieval Christian beliefs
4/1: Protestant Reformation
4/3: Divisions and beliefs of modern Christianity
4/8: review
4/10: Exam II
4/15: History of Islam and the Koran Islam
4/17: Islam
4/22: Iman
4/24: more Iman and readings posted on Blackboard (Please download and bring to class.)
4/29: Ihsan
5/1: more Ihsan and readings posted on Blackboard (Please download and bring to class.)
5/6: philosophical schools
5/8: review
May 21 (5:30-8:30, this room): Final

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (must be the following language)
If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website:
http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT (must be the following language as approved by the undergrad council):
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (must be the following language as approved by the undergrad council):
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.