

LIVING FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTE

WORLD RELIGIONS & CULTS – THP 302

Course Level // Continuing Ed // 1 Credit Hour

Summer 2024 / May 18th – August 3rd / Online Only

SUMMER SELF-PACE ONLINE: Student learning will be self-guided. Each lecture and quiz taken unlocks the next lecture and quiz. This allows the student to pace themselves through the content between the dates associated with the course. All major projects and assignments can be submitted at any time between the dates of the course. Assignments may differ slightly in the summer semester from what is described in the lectures, so please read your syllabus closely and review assignments below. All assignments have a hard end date of August 3rd @ 11:59 pm CST.

Faculty Professor: Dr. W. Alan Shelby

Education

- Bachelor of Arts, Biblical Studies (Calvary University)
- Master of Arts, Biblical Studies (Luther Rice Seminary)
- Doctor of Religious Studies, Expository Preaching (ABD, Trinity Theological Seminary)

Experience

- President of the Board for Allen Village Charter Public School (2003-Present)
- Dean of Shepherd's School of Ministry (1988-2012)
- Dean of Living Faith Bible Institute (2013-2021)
- Living Faith Fellowship Board of Directors (2015-Present)

Pastoral Experience

- Pastoral Ministry at Blue Ridge Baptist Temple (1980-1982)
- Pastoral Counseling at Blue Ridge Christian School (1983-1984)
- Pastoral Ministry at Kansas City Baptist Temple (1985-2012)
- Lead Pastor at Harvest Baptist Church – Blue Springs, MO (2012-Present)

Instructor: Pastor Dan Reneau

Education

- Associates of Divinity (Shepherd School of Ministry)
- Associates of Liberal Arts (MCC-Longview)
- Bachelor of Fine Art (Kansas City Art Institute) (Double Major, Painting & Art History)
- Master of Fine Arts (California College of the Arts)

Experience

- Department Chair/Instructor of Arts Education at Longview Community College (2011-Present)

Pastoral Experience

- Pastoral Ministry at Midtown Baptist Temple (2013-2016)
- Lead Pastor at Living Faith – Lee's Summit, MO (2016-Present)

Teachers Assistant: Becca Bagunu becca.bagunu@lfb.org

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comparative study of religious history and beliefs from antiquity to contemporary societies. This course will analyze common traits between belief systems emphasizing

the well-known and accepted religions, philosophical traditions, and cults of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Mormonism, Catholicism, Jehovah's Witness & Islam.

WEEK	TOPIC	Teacher	READING (complete the reading prior to the class lecture)	TASK
1	Syllabus & Overview	Dan Reneau	<i>The Kingdom of Cults</i> pgs. 13-30	Quiz 1
2	Judaism	Mike Reneau	<i>The Kingdom of Cults</i> pgs. 31-47	Quiz 2
3	Islam	James Fyffe	<i>The Kingdom of Cults</i> pgs. 516-524	Quiz 3
4	Catholicism & Orthodox	Greg Axe	<i>The Kingdom of Cults</i> pgs. 547-557	Quiz 4
5	Mormonism & Jehovah's Witness	Beau Green	<i>The Kingdom of Cults</i> pgs. 217-237	Quiz 5
6	Hinduism & Buddhism	Andrew Ong	<i>The Kingdom of Cults</i> pgs. 345-357	Quiz 6
7	New Thought & Unity	Mitch Dobson	<i>The Kingdom of Cults</i> pgs. 378-402	Quiz 7
8	Wicca, Neo-Pagan and Mysticism	Jeff Grasher	<i>The Kingdom of Occults</i> pgs. 189-223	Quiz 8

II. COURSE PREREQUISITES

- A passing grade in Foundations 2 & 3

III. MEASUREABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of major past and present philosophical and religious traditions and views.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the historical roots and progression of major world religions and cults
- Students will demonstrate an ability to analyze and compare major world religions against biblical doctrines and historicity of the Christian faith.

IV. REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

- The student will complete weekly post-lecture quizzes. **(30% of grade)**
- The student will write an essay over two religions from the course by using the assigned reading for comparison. **(30% of grade – due by August 3rd @ 11:59 pm CST)**
 - Select two religions from the course and from the assigned reading to use for comparison.
 - Write 1500 words comparing the doctrines of your selected religions against a doctrine of scripture.
 - Select from the following topics:
 - Compare the views on the divinity of Christ.
 - Compare the views on scripture.
 - Compare the views on soteriology.

- Compare the views on sin and its consequences.
 - Compare the views on authority structure and its relationship to adherents.
- Compare and contrast by first introducing each individual religion's unique view then compare it against the biblical Christian doctrine.
- Reference the book 5-8 times within your essay
- Format: Chicago Manual Style, 12pt font, double spacing
- The student will read select writings from Walter Martin's *The Kingdom of the Cults* and write a five-page essay on one religious belief system **not covered in the course**. The student will then refute one major tenant or historical claim from the selected religion or cult by employing the Bible. **(40% of grade – due by August 3rd @ 11:59 pm CST)**
 - **ESSAY INCLUDES**
 - Origin Story
 - Whether or not they have sacred texts
 - Beliefs
 - Provide a biblical apologetic that refutes the false teaching.
 - Your review should begin with a three-paragraph **summary** of the selected religion or cult's anthropology, tenants, and common teachings. The remainder of the essay should employ Biblical proofs in opposition to the stated philosophy, critiquing and refuting its major points of distinction. The essay must also quote at least three non-biblical sources in the bibliography. Please close the essay by summarizing your argument.
 - This book report must rely heavily on Biblical absolutes.
 - **REQUIREMENTS**
 - The report must reference at least **three** books or articles related to the topic other than the Bible and must include at least **one** footnote or endnote citation per page.
 - Provide at least three sources from respected authors in the field. These sources can be from like-minded individuals or otherwise. These individuals would be considered as trusted authorities in the area of study.
 - Please refrain from using links (YouTube or Wikipedia for example) that cannot be sourced.
 - This report must use rules of Chicago Manual Style (see Essay Formatting).
 - The paper must be between five and six typewritten pages in length, double-spaced. Times New Roman set to 12-point type.
 - Citations may be given as footnotes or as endnotes.

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible, Authorized Version.

Select readings from Martin, Walter. *The Kingdom of the Cults: The Definitive Work on the Subject*. Ada: Baker Books, 2019.

Select readings from Martin, Walter, Jill M. Rische, and Van G. Kurt. *The Kingdom of the Occult*. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Pastor/Professor lectures (online or on-campus), text readings, self-directed study/research, online assessment delivered through Moodle learning environment.

VI. ESSAY FORMATTING

Chicago Manual of Style. (17th edition)

For help using Chicago Style:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

VII. COURSE GRADING POLICY

LFBI Grading Scale

A: 92-100% Excellent. Mastery of course material.

B: 83-91% Good. Reasonable understanding of course material.

C: 74-82% Satisfactory. Basic comprehension of course material.

D: 65-73% Poor. Minimal knowledge of course material.

LFBI Grade-Point Calculation

A // 97-100	C // 77-79
A- // 92-96	C- // 74-76
B+ // 89-91	D+ // 71-73
B // 86-88	D // 68-70
B- // 83-85	D- // 65-67
C+ // 80-82	F // 0-64

Transferring credits: we transfer students' grade-point averages based on the above scale. LFBI does not transfer letter grades. This is critical to the consideration of student honors at graduation. LFBI Instructors will calculate a percentage grade on each assignment entered in Moodle.

VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Living Faith Bible Institute requires 100% attendance. All attendance issues will be handled directly by the course instructor within your specific class. From there, it may be deferred to the Registrar's Office. If a student misses' class but believes it may be excused, they will contact the Registrar. We believe that students have many potential extenuating circumstances that contribute to

absence and for this reason, course records distinguish between excused and unexcused absence. The Registrar's Office staff is available to help students regarding any concern with attendance.

- Whether you are attending classes online or in person, it is important for students to put together a personal attendance plan. Being present and prepared for class is critical to getting the instructional experience necessary for growth. The following are the attendance requirements and policies for LFBI:
 - Students are responsible for all missed information, instruction and assignments accrued while absent from class.
 - For online students, if you miss the live viewing of any class lecture, you will have **ten days** to view the class online before the corresponding quiz becomes inaccessible and you are considered absent.
 - All students who miss class (i.e., sickness, missions' trips, work schedules) will be expected to stay caught up with each week's class. Instructors may, at their discretion, grant extensions to students who miss class under special circumstances.
 - Students who wish to contest an unexcused absence may fill out the Absence Form on the Resource page of myLFBI for review by the Registrar's Office.
- When in live attendance, the student is expected to show common courtesy to the professor and fellow students by being punctual. Students who are regularly late to class or are a distraction to other students are susceptible to being reported to the Registrar's Office.

VIII. ACADEMIC STANDING & PROBATION

Students' academic status is assessed at the end of every term, whether the student is full-time or part-time. A summer session is considered the same as a semester for the purpose of the following regulations:

- **Academic Warning:** Students will be warned that their academic progress has declined to the point that they are in danger of being put on Academic Probation. Students will be warned via email from Student Advisory personnel. Students will be required to write a formal plan for improving their grades before the end of the semester.
 - Students on academic warning will be required to write a formal plan for improving their grades before the end of the semester.
- **Academic Probation:** Students will be notified that they are being placed on Academic Probation and will be required to coordinate/communicate regularly (once a week) with their LFBI Academic Mentor via phone call, in-person meeting, or video call in alignment with the LFBI Academic Mentor Checklist. Students will be required to meet with their Academic Advisor in order to enroll in their courses for the semesters they are on probation.
 - In general, students will be placed on academic probation whenever their official grade-point average falls below 2.0 (C average).
 - Students will also be placed on academic probation if they earn at least one failing grade for three consecutive semesters.

- Students on academic probation will be restored to good standing whenever the grade-point average reaches at least 2.0.
- Students have three successive semesters (including the semester in which they originally were placed on probation). Otherwise, they are ineligible to re-enroll without the approval of the academic office.
- Students are responsible for knowing their academic status by referring to myLFBI and their permanent transcript.
- For first time students who have a grade point average below 2.0 at the end of their first semester of either full- or part-time study will be placed on academic warning. Students on academic warning must achieve an overall 2.0 average by the end of their second semester or be placed on regular probation. At this point, they will be subject to the regular probation requirements.
- **Academic Suspension:** Students are not allowed to enroll in courses for a length of time determined by the Academic Office and will attend a meeting with the Provost of LFBI before enrolling for classes.
- **Academic Dismissal:** Students who have not met the requirements for improving and maintaining progress in their studies will be subject to removal from the school.

IX. DROP POLICY

- Students have until the second week of semester classes to enroll for credit. The penalty for late enrollment is missing the quizzes for the sessions while they were not enrolled.
- There will be no refunds for early withdrawal beyond the second week of class or for incomplete classes.
- Students who enroll in Fall or Spring courses may be re-assigned as an “audit student” upon request prior to the end of week 4 but will not receive a refund. After week 4, all students will receive their earned grade.
- Students who enroll in Summer Self-Pace courses may be reassigned as an “audit student” upon request prior to the end of week 3 but will not receive a refund. After week 3, all students will receive their earned grade regardless of what was completed.
- Students will receive a failing grade for an incomplete course. The failing grade will go on their transcript. Contact the registrar to change enrollment status prior to the designated time.
- Students may retake a class for credit the next time it is offered by re-enrolling and paying tuition. Both grades will be recorded on the transcript.

X. OTHER POLICIES

- **Academic Misconduct**
Academic misconduct is strictly prohibited and will result in an F for the course as well as a board review of student enrollment status.
- **Disability Statement**
Students with a documented disability may contact the LFBI offices to make arrangements for academic accommodations.
- **Classroom Policies**
Classroom policies will be established and enforced by the individual instructor. Cell phones, internet social networking and other distractions take away from the learning environment. Use these on class assigned breaks only.
- **Assessment Responsibility**
Students are responsible for retaining copies of all completed assignments. In the case that an assignment is lost or mismanaged within the myLFBI platform, students will be accountable to resubmit all missing work.

This syllabus is subject to change by verbal or written announcement by the professor.