

RGP3281HS Religious Experience in the World's Religions
(cross-listed to the Theology Department)

Michael Stoeber
Regis College, #206
100 Wellesley Street W., M5S 2Z5
office hours: Wednesday 10am-12pm.
or by appointment

Tuesday 2-4pm
Classroom C.
m.stoeber@utoronto.ca
(416) 922-5474 (#255)

Course Description

This course explores the nature of religious experience in some of the major religions of the world, with special attention to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. It includes some comparative analysis between traditions, and creative reflection on the theological and pastoral significance of such comparative study. Lecture, discussion, three short reflection papers, one major essay.

Course Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- describe key scriptures, historical events, beliefs, and practices relevant to the religious experiences (depth, visionary, mystical, numinous, prophetic) associated with some of the major religious traditions;
- compare major differences and similarities of beliefs and practice, as these pertain especially to religious experiences between traditions;
- reflect creatively and self-critically on essential features of their own religious or secular spiritual experiences, in response to the religious experiences associated with other major religions;
- write clearly and structure coherently pastoral/theological reflection papers and a major essay;
- appreciate the significance of religious experiences associated with religious traditions of some of the major religious traditions.

Required Books (available at Crux Books, Wycliffe College)

Huston Smith, *The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions* (N.Y.: Harper SanFrancisco, 1991).

Philip Novak, *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Text's of the World's Religions* (N.Y.: HarperSanFrancisco, 1994).

Other Readings

There are various survey texts of the world religions on Reserve Reading at the Regis College Library, listed below on p. 6, as well as a few other sources. All of those books have more historical and factual detail than Huston Smith's survey text. These books will be particularly helpful for the essay assignment.

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. Following the final examination, a letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	= 100-90	B	= 76-73
A	= 89-85	B-	= 72-70
A-	= 84-80	FZ	= 69-0
B+	= 79-77		