



Global Missions Department
"Shaping Servant-Leaders to Reach all Peoples"

MC/MCC 911, Missiological Engagement with World Religions

Fall 2020

Faculty Information

Professor: Dr. Paul W. Lewis
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Office hours: By appointment



Course Information

Credit hours: 4
Course dates: December 14 - 18
Meeting times: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: AGTS 229

COVID-19 Response

Students and faculty will wear face coverings at all times in the academic buildings. Wearing a face covering, sitting in classroom designated seating, and following the social distancing guidelines is the best way to slow the transmission of this virus.

Required Texts

Farhadian, Charles E. *Introducing World Religions: A Christian Engagement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015. ISBN-978-0801032349

Hiebert, Paul G and R. Daniel Shaw. *Understanding Folk Religion: A Christian Response to Popular Beliefs and Practices*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999. ISBN- 978-0801022197

Noss, David S., and Blake Grangaard. *A History of World Religions*. 13th ed. New York: Routledge, 2012. ISBN-978-0205167975

Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*. 5th ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009. ISBN-978-0830838509

Smart, Ninian, and Richard D. Hecht, eds. *Sacred Texts of the World: A Universal Anthology*. New York: Crossroad Publishing, 1984. ISBN-978-0824506391.

Additional Sources:

Muck, Terry C. "Missiological Issues in the Encounter with Emerging Buddhism." *Missiology: An International Review* 28, no. 1 (2000): 35-45.

Muck, Terry C. "Interreligious Dialogue: Conversations That Enable Christian Witness." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 35, no. 4 (2011): 187-92.

"The Necessity of Retaining Father and Son Terminology in Scripture Translations for Muslims." Position paper, see at FatherSon.ag.org

Smith, Alex. "Christian Witness to Buddhists." Lausanne Occasional Papers. No. 15 Thailand Report: Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Wheaton, IL, 1990.

Note that additional resources will be provided prior to and during class.

Evangel University Mission Statement

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Mission Statement

AGTS shapes servant leaders with knowledge, skill and passion to revitalize the church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.

Catalog Description

The process of engaging followers of other religions is examined with the purpose of facilitating effective communication of the gospel. Representatives serving in diverse religious contexts explore unique opportunities and challenges presented by various historical and contemporary religious environments.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to both understand the basic worldviews of the major world religions, and to engage on how to missiologically interact with believers of these religions.

Learning Outcomes¹

Upon completion of the student should be able:

1. To appraise the elements of various world religions based upon their own beliefs, rationalities, and worldviews.
2. To evaluate some of the components of engagement of various world religions with a Christian and missiological lens.
3. To assess the various missiological methodologies in reaching practitioners of various world religions in terms of engagement and effectiveness.
4. To integrate the material of the course into a means by which the usage and an appreciation of indigenous questions via religious lens are accepted with a genuine missiological interactive sensitivity.
5. To interact with world religion discussions in regards to various religious and Christian traditions in terms of various Evangelical and Pentecostal positions and concerns on relating to other world religions.

This course supports but does not assess the PhD/DAIS PLOs, EU 20, and FWE outcomes.

Course Format

This course will include pre-session readings, research, and writing, the session lectures and discussion, and the post-session reading, research, and writing.

Course Schedule

Day	Assignments
Monday	Introduction, the study of religion, secular vs. Christian interpretation of the world religions. Basics of the World Religions (not being presented by students)
Tuesday - Thursday	Student presentations of World Religions and Missionary engagements with the world religions (depending on time)
Friday	Missiological Engagement

Schedule subject to change in order to accommodate to visiting missionaries schedules.

Course Policies & Requirements

Preparation

In order to succeed in this class, students should arrange to have regular access to a computer, the internet, Evangel email and Course Commons. This class will use Course Commons for all course communication, interaction, content, announcements, collaboration and assignments.

¹ All masters and doctoral PLOs, EU20 and FWE outcomes can be found at <https://agts.edu/current-students/academic-policies/>

Participation

Students will be expected to regularly contribute to the class, collaborate with one another, and to “learn by doing.”

Attendance

I will record attendance for each class session. Please be present, on time, and ready to go for each session, taking care to silence or shut down any distractions. If an absence is necessary (for a whole class session or any significant part of a class session), please communicate with me in advance. Because this is an accelerated course, students who miss more than two weeks will be removed from the course (WP or WF).

Projects and Assignments

Pre-Session: 1. While covering the same basic material, two of your textbooks have a fundamentally different approaches. Read, compare and contrast one religion (Buddhism, Hinduism, Chinese/Daoism/Confucianism, or Islam) in the two textbooks, Farhadian, *Introducing World Religions* and Noss/Grangaard, *A History of World Religions*. Write a 3-4 page (double space in Turabian 8th edition) interaction noting the different approaches, highlighting the similarities and differences from your own perspective, and citing any key lessons that you gleaned from the exercise. Be sure to include the primary source material from Smart/Hecht anthology to supplement your interaction. As the class focuses on these religions, we will spend time discussing these considerations as a backdrop to the broader questions. The paper should be turned in the first day of class.

2. Read these other required textbooks listed in this syllabus, Hiebert and Shaw, *Understanding Folk Religion*, and Sire, *The Universe Next Door*. The student is expected to submit 2-3 page typed critiques of each of the assigned texts. The critique should evidence graduate level interaction with the arguments(s) of the book. Less than 1 page can be summary, and the remainder should be critique. At the end, there should be a sentence or two with recommendations on who would benefit from the book. The paper should conform to the Turabian 8th edition format (double-space, Times New Roman 12), and for citing the book being reviewed you can cite the page(s) with parenthesis (e.g., (97)). For a book review, a title page is not required, but the complete bibliographical of the book being reviewed should be on the top of the first.

Session: 1. Attend class and participate in discussions.

2. Based on the reading of **all the required literature** and your additional research, be prepared to give a presentation for 45-50 minutes on a specific world religion, (on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Dec. 12-14) answering these questions (clarity on some of the questions will come from Monday and early Tuesday discussions). This is a basic understanding of the religion itself and should answer these questions:

- What is the basic history of the religion, and the main geographic distribution? No more than 15 minutes on this.
- What are the basic tenets of this faith, and worldview of practitioners? What are the main branches (and basic differences)?
- Is there a sacred text(s)? What is the final authority for determining appropriate belief?
- What are the key rituals in this religion? What is the key mode of participation for the average follower? Is there a structure or hierarchy in the leadership of this religion?

- Is there any additional pertinent information about this religion and its adherents that a new missionary going into this environment should know in order for appropriate contextualization or genuine relationship to occur?

The student is to oversee the follow-up discussion. Only one presentation per religion, so first come first served in terms of reserving your selection.

- The Religions to be presented:
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
 - Islam
 - Latin American Roman Catholicism
 - Shintoism
 - Animism
 - Jainism
 - Sikhism
 - Secularism
 - Zoroastrianism
- The procedure
 - The student should select one the religions as soon as possible and notify the professor (lewisp@evangel.edu, 417-865-2815, ext.8815). They will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - The student should prepare a presentation for class, and include a select bibliography of key works in and on that religion.

Post-Session: 1. A research paper is required. This should engage with more detail analysis of one of the world religions (or sub-group – e.g. Tibetan Buddhism, Shia Islam). The first part of the paper (at least 50 %) should be on a summary of the religion with its tenets, beliefs, rituals, and history. The last part should be a missiological engagement. What principles, perspectives, activities, and perspectives should be in mind when engaging with a follower of the said religion? The paper should be 20-28 pages in length, not including bibliography (double-spaced, Turabian 9th ed.). **Due date will be June 30, 2018.**

NOTE: ALL REQUIRED WORK FOR THIS COURSE MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE JULY 1, 2018 (the first day of class of the next set of modules).

It is highly recommended to complete the post-session work (i.e. all assignments) within 90 days of the last day of class in order to begin pre-session work for your next course. However, all assignments **MUST** be completed before **July as a grade of failure may be issued. If** additional time is required, the student must request an extension prior to this date. If merited, a 90 day extension can be granted (a fee applies). Please note the following policy for this class

Research/Writing Assignments

The papers should be written carefully and adhere to the source documentation method set out in Kate L. Turabian, et al., *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th edition. As per GMD requirements, the use of text notes is required, but for annotations,

footnotes should be used for clarity. The papers will be graded on cogency, clarity, comprehensiveness, and proper formatting (See Addendum One for the “AGTS (GMD) Rubric for the Evaluation of the Quality of Student Writing” (The rubric which will be used for the grading of your papers)). Given the close time frame for distributing the papers to all participants there will be a grade reduction for lateness.

All work must be submitted electronically via Course Commons. **NOTE:** include your last name as the first word in the file name. Please submit your work as soon as you complete it so as to avoid the accumulation of work (and stress) at deadline dates. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Writing Style Guide

All formal papers (unless otherwise specified by the instructor) are to be formatted according to the [AGTS Writing Style Guide](#).

Communication

Good communication is essential to success in college and beyond. If you know that you won't be able to access the course for more than 3 days, please communicate with me in advance.

If you have a question, comment or suggestion, feel free to contact me. You may contact me by phone, email, or through Course Commons. I will respond to emails/messages within 24 hours.

I expect students to stay on top of communication that I send to them. Please be sure to set up your notifications so that you are daily connected to what is happening in our class.

Assessment

The grading rubrics for major assignments will be available with the assignment instructions. For most assignments, grades will be posted in Course Commons within 7 days to allow the professor time to provide detailed feedback along with the evaluation.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be assigned according to the following calculations:

Assignment Group	Total Points	Weight
General class participation	100 pts.	10%
Sire book review	100 pts.	10%
Hiebert / Shaw book review	100 pts.	10%
Farhadian & Noss/Grangaard comparison paper	150 pts.	15%
World Religion presentation	200 pts.	20%
Final Project	350 pts.	35%
Total:	1000 pts.	100%

Late/Missed Assignment Policy

All assignments are due at the dates and times specified. Late assignments can be submitted 48 hours late for a deduction of 20% per day. No assignments will be accepted for any credit after being more than 48 hours late, unless prior arrangements have been made.

- Please be proactive in your assignment preparation and submission!
- If there are any difficulties in submitting an assignment, please email me immediately!
- Difficulties with an assignment? Contact me before the due date!

Missed quizzes/assignments may be made up at the discretion of the professor. If you know you will be unavailable to submit a quiz/assignment before the due date, please make arrangements for an alternative time. If a quiz/assignment is missed, the student has 48 hours to contact the professor for a possible make-up time.

Grading Scale

Grades will be based on the number of points accumulated by completing assignments, projects, and quizzes. The following grading scale applies:

100% ▶	93% ▶	89% ▶	86% ▶	83% ▶	80% ▶	76% ▶	73% ▶	69% ▶	66% ▶	63% ▶	59% ▶
94%	90%	87%	84%	80%	77%	74%	70%	67%	64%	60%	0%
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Grade Access

All course grades will be recorded and shown through Course Commons. Simply click the “Grades” link in the course menu. For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from this page, see [How Do I View My Grades?](#)

I will attempt to grade assignments and provide feedback within 48 hours of the assignment due date. Larger assignments/projects may take up to 1 week to grade so that feedback can be provided. Please pay attention to notifications of graded items and recent feedback. **I expect students to review and learn from the feedback that I provide on their assignments.**

The Temporary Grade of Incomplete

An “I” (Incomplete) applies to work of acceptable quality when one or more required assignments are not completed because of illness, accident, death in the family, or other satisfactory reason. The request for an Incomplete should be student-initiated. The *Incomplete (I) Grade Request Form* may be obtained from your administrative assistant in your department.

Bibliography

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Specific Data

Syllabus prepared by Paul W. Lewis, August 10, 2020.

Academic Integrity

As participants in a Christian university, members of the broader academic community, and active professionals, it is incumbent upon every member of the Evangel community to employ and encourage integrity in all our academic and professional pursuits. Any and every instance of academic dishonesty compromises the mission of Evangel University and violates the standards we hold as people of Christ and practitioners within our professional fields. Students are expected to understand and avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, which includes falsification, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

As members of the Evangel community, students share the responsibility to deter and report academic dishonesty. Should a student become aware of a violation of academic integrity, he or she is encouraged to report the incident to a faculty member or department chairperson.

It is the responsibility of the faculty to address any and all acts of academic dishonesty. Sanctions for violations of academic dishonesty can include but are not limited to a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade for the course, suspension from school, or expulsion from the university. Evangel's policy on academic integrity, as published in the [Student Handbook](#), appears in the section IX. University Policies: Academic Integrity.

Accommodation Statement

Evangel University is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated by Evangel University to review disability documentation, determine reasonable accommodations, and develop plans for the provision of such accommodations.

If you have already established accommodations through Academic Support and receive accommodation memos, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible (accommodations are not retroactive). If you have not yet established accommodations, but have a disability or health condition (permanent or temporary) that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact Academic Support staff in the Center for Student Success (ZM-208; 417-865-2815 x.8215) so that accommodations can be arranged. See the [Disability and Academic Accommodations Handbook](#) for further information on the accommodations process.

Inclusive Language

The Assemblies of God Theological Seminary employs inclusive language for human beings in both verbal and written communication. This commitment to equality and community is rooted in the biblical revelation of God's will to form one united people, including men and women from every nation, people, tongue, and tribe (Rev 7:7-9). In regard to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. Students must use inclusive language in all assignments.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

It is expected that electronic devices will be used during class to support the students' learning. Any use of technology that substantially degrades the learning environment or promotes dishonesty or illegal activities is prohibited.

Cell phones should only be used for academic purposes during class. It is not permissible to answer cell phones or engage in text messaging while class is in session. Should an emergency situation arise that requires you to use your cell phone, please make the professor aware of the circumstances.

University Resources

Evangel University Libraries

Klaude Kendrick Library's physical holdings currently includes approximately 120,000 bound volumes, 3,100 media in various formats, and number of periodical subscriptions to key titles in relevant fields of study. The facility includes a computer center, equipped with 13 computers, multiple laser printers, and a copy machine/scanner/printer, providing access to productivity software, library resources and the Internet. The library also provides access to a wireless network throughout the facility.

The **Cordas C. Burnett Library** is the major information resource center of AGTS. Its physical holdings currently includes 127,726 bound volumes, 5,561 media in various formats, and number of periodical subscriptions to key titles in relevant fields of study.

To access the library catalogs and resources online, visit [Evangel University Libraries](#). Evangel's libraries include computer centers, equipped with computers and a copy machine/scanner/color printer, providing access to productivity software, library resources, and the Internet. The libraries also provides access to a wireless network throughout the facility.

The Write Place

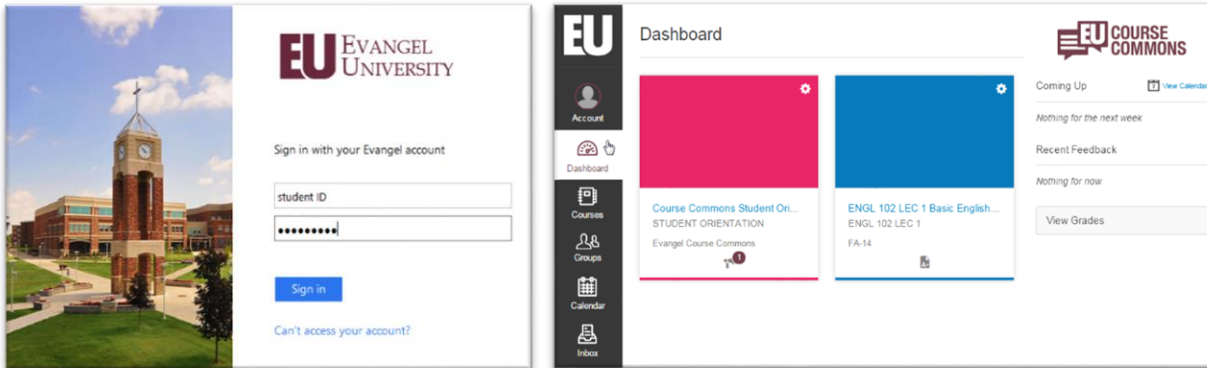
The Write Place is a free service available to all Evangel students. The tutors in The Write Place offer tutoring and support to help each student through the writing process. Although The Write Place is not an editing service, the tutors do teach correct grammar and punctuation, which then may be applied to the student's paper. Students must engage tutors directly and take an active role in the correction process. The Write Place is available to online students. For more information or to set up an appointment, see [The Write Place Online](#).

The Center for Student Success

The Center for Student Success is also available to all Evangel student. The Center for Student Success provides tutoring, coaching and academic support. The Center for Student Success is located in Zimmerman Hall 208. The Center for Student Success is available to online students. For more information or to set up an appointment, see [The Center for Student Success](#).

Course Commons

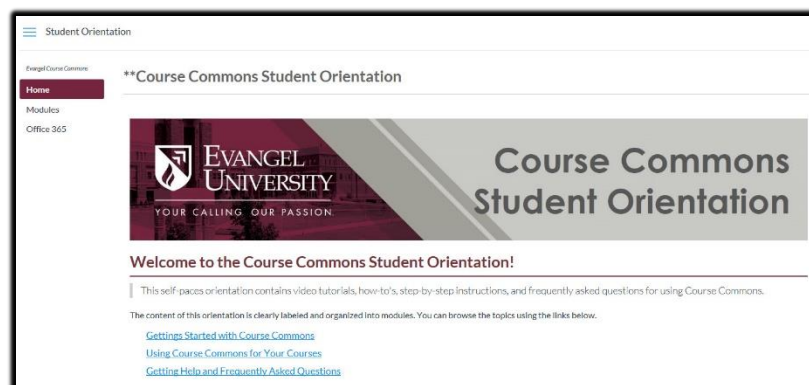
This course will use Course Commons, Evangel's learning management system. There are links to Course Commons in the Student Portal and the Evangel website. The login page for Course Commons is <https://courses.evangel.edu>.



Use your Evangel username and password to login.

Course Commons Student Orientation

All Evangel students have access to the [Course Commons Student Orientation](#). If you are new to Course Commons, you are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource. As part of your course preparation, this will help you make the most of the features that are available to you as a student.



Accessing the Course in Course Commons

Access your courses list by clicking on the Courses icon on the Global Navigation menu on the left of the screen. You can also click on the course card on the Dashboard.

To customize your Courses list, see the following Help Guide:

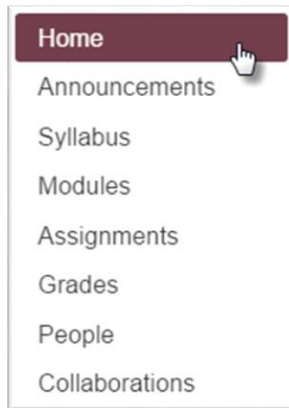
[How do I customize my Courses list?](#)

Students will have access to this course in Course Commons seven (7) days *before* the official beginning of the semester. If students have not completed their financial registration by the first official day of class, their course access will be revoked.

After the end of the semester, students will have read-only access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work, course resources and grades will be available.

Accessing Course Content in Course Commons

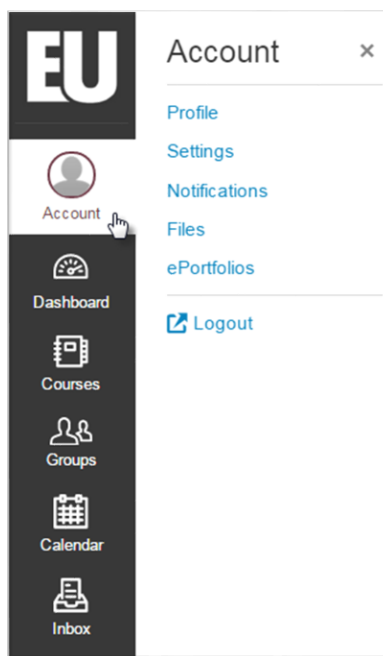
The professor controls the availability of course content and features. Some items may be unavailable until a date set by the professor.



You can navigate the course content and features using the Course Navigation menu on the left. This menu can be customized by the professor, so it may differ from course to course, depending on what features the professor has chosen to make available.

You can collapse the Course Navigation menu to focus on the page content. Click on the menu icon in the upper left (which looks like 3 lines). You can expand the menu by clicking on the menu icon again. All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, online quizzes, online discussions, grades, etc.) can be accessed using the links in the Course Navigation menu.

Personal Settings in Course Commons



Students can adjust their personal settings in Course Commons. Click on the Account icon to access the Account menu.

On the **Profile** page, you can add a profile picture to your account. You can also edit your display name, which will show to your instructor and peers throughout Course Commons. The **Settings** link allows you to add additional contact methods (personal email or cell phone number for text message alerts) to your account. You can also add external services, like Twitter, Skype or Google Drive.

The **Notifications** link allows you to customize *what* notifications you receive from Course Commons and *how* and *when* you receive them. This is a student-centered feature that allows you to optimize your notifications to help you stay connected to what is happening in all your courses.

For more information, see the following pages in the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Update your Profile and Settings](#) and [How to Update Your Notifications Preferences](#).

Accessing Grades in Course Commons

All course grades will be recorded and shown through Course Commons. Simply click the “Grades” button on the lower right of the Dashboard to access your grades for all courses. You can also use the Grades link in the Course Navigation to access your grades for this course. For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from the Grades page, see the following page from the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Check My Grades](#).

How to Get Help with Course Commons

Help is never more than a few clicks away! You can access the Support menu from any page in Course Commons.

Click on the Support icon in the lower left corner of the screen. Because the Course Commons is powered by the Canvas Learning Management System, all help guides and helpdesk tickets will reference Canvas.

From the Support menu, you can send a message to your instructor, search the Canvas Help Guides, or report a problem. You can browse the [Canvas Student Guide](#) for help on a specific topic.

Course Commons Troubleshooting

Do you have a question about a quiz, an assignment, or another item in the course? Contact your professor.

Are you having technical problems with Course Commons? Click the Support icon, click “Report a Problem” and complete the form to file a ticket for a personal response from the support team. Please be sure to include a thorough description of the problem.

Are you having trouble with your Evangel account (username and password)? Contact the IT Helpdesk at studenthelp@evangel.edu (email) or call 417-865-2815 ext. 4357 (HELP). Please allow 24 hours for a response on a weekday and 48 hours for a response on the weekend.

Support



Course Commons Student Orientation

This course provides on-demand video tutorials for using Course Commons.

The Center for Student Success

Your success is our goal! This course contains resources for career planning, student employment, tutoring and academic support.

The Write Place

Find resources and connect with tutors to help you hone your writing skills.

Ask Your Instructor a Question

Questions are submitted to your instructor

Search the Canvas Guides

Find answers to common questions

Report a Problem

If Canvas misbehaves, tell us about it