

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**SHOGAGU ZEN INSTITUTE**

**COURSE TITLE:** Inter-religious and Cross Cultural Sensitivity

## **Instructor Information**

**NAME:** Eric Daishin McCabe

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** daishin@zenfields.org

**PHONE NUMBER:** 515-520-3113

## **Course Information**

**SEMESTER/YEAR:** SUMMER 2019

**DATE SYLLABUS CREATED AND/OR REVISED:** May 2019

**DAYS & TIME & LOCATION:** TBD

*Course Description: Because we do not practice Buddhism in an isolated bubble, we need to investigate our assumptions and (often superior) attitudes towards others that have been shaped by Western religious training and convert Buddhism. A cursory or superficial understanding framed through Western religion, may also heighten injustices faced daily by Jews and Muslims, and limit American Buddhists' ability to be clear and woke regarding Black Christian Theology. Further deepening of the meaning of our Buddhist practice will emerge from our study of Hinduism. Finally, symbols can be recovered and invoked from the World Religions that help us to develop our sensitivity and responses to the Ecological crisis.*

This course will be a semi-independent learning course, meeting 9 times over a 14 week period. The meetings will be 2 hours long and consist of expert or panel presentation followed by Q&A and discussion. The course will cover how cultures shape diverse perspectives, including expressions of spirituality/faith. This course requires students to experience interacting with individuals of other faiths/ spiritual systems, by participating in interfaith events, and integrating this with their own spiritual understanding and practice.

Topics included:

Key Tenets and Practices of religions currently practiced in the West:

Judaism

Christianity

Islam

Hinduism

Confucianism

Indigenous Traditions

Interfaith panel discussion

Student-led discussion, after attending a minimum 3 events in other faith tradition. Students keep a journal on their experience.

One written paper due at end of course will be a discussion of another faith tradition, and what the student has learned and integrated with Zen or Mindfulness/Insight practice and with her family-of-origin's faith tradition, 10-20 pp double spaced.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

- Exploring the Philosophy of Religion, David Stewart.
- The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West.
- The Jewish Experience, Jay A. Holstein.
- The Living Gita, The Complete Bhagavad Gita, with commentary by Sri Swami Satchidananda.
- Ecology and Religion, John Grim and Mary Evelyn Tucker.
- A Black Theology of Liberation, James H. Cone.

## Course Schedule

Week	Assignment	Due Date and Meeting Times Online
Week 1 and 2	<p><b>Read:</b></p> <p>Exploring the Philosophy of Religion</p> <p>Chapter 1: The Varieties of Religious Experience</p> <p>pp. 1-27, and 36-46</p> <p>Chapter 3: Religion and Human Destiny</p> <p>pp. 85-88, and 96 – 116</p> <p>Chapter 5: The Problem of Evil</p> <p>pp. 161-167, and 177 - 203</p> <p>Chapter 7: Religion and Current Issues</p> <p>pp. 263 – 268, 275 – 290, 300 – 301, and 311.</p> <p><b>Write:</b></p> <p>What's your story with Religion? (2-5 page paper)</p>	

Week	Assignment	Due Date and Meeting Times Online
Week 3	<b>Read:</b> The Fear of Islam: an introduction to Islamophobia in the West  <b>Journal #1 Due</b>	
Week 4	<b>Read:</b> The Jewish Experience	
Week 5	<b>Read:</b> The Bhagavad Gita  <b>Journal #2 Due</b>	
Week 8	<b>Read:</b> Ecology and Religion	
Week 9	<b>Journal #3 Due</b>	
Week 11	<b>Read:</b> A Black Theology of Liberation	
Week 12	Student Led Discussion	
Week 13	Student Led Discussion	
Week 15	Final Papers Due	