

## MTW261.7 World Religions

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)
------------------------------

World Religions (MTW261.7)
----------------------------

### SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Bachelor	One semester	Advanced	Dr David Turnbull

#### Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit  
 elective unit  
 other (please specify below):

Core: Bachelor of Intercultural Studies Elective: Bachelor of Ministry and Bachelor of Theology
--

#### Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	144 credit points

#### Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week*	No. personal study hours per week**	Total workload hours per week***
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support:   0   hours per week

#### Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

- Yes     No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Pre-requisite: MTR190.5 Developing Cultural Intelligence
--

**SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS**

**Brief description of the content of the unit (key topics):**

This unit involves understanding the world’s religions and how to engage with them through dialogue, contextualization and culturally appropriate evangelism. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, Engaging the World/Others’ Stories. This unit provides the student with a general introduction to religion (definition, functions, approaches to study of world religions) and attempts to help the student gain a basic understanding of the significant non-Christian religious traditions on their own terms, Primal Religions, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, especially regarding their history, sacred writings, beliefs (foundational and core), practices, contemporary changes and expressions (including folk religion) and branches. Apart from each religion being covered, other key topics include the nature of religion and the Christian encounter.

**Learning outcomes for unit:**

- 1) Explain the history, primary texts, foundational tenets, practices and contemporary context of the major religious traditions, apart from Christianity (for example - Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam)
- 2) Evaluate the significant areas of similarity and difference between Christianity and other major religious traditions, and the resultant implications for Christian engagement
- 3) Identify areas in which Christians can learn from the major religious traditions
- 4) Engage with non-Christian religious traditions in a respectful and thoughtful fashion

**Assessment tasks**

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed	Weighting
<b>1) 4 x Reading Responses</b> Demonstrate understanding of key elements of each religion highlighted in the reading and activities supplied and to examine the implications for Christian engagement. (2,000 words total)	1-4	Part A - Week 3 Part B - Week 6 Part C - Week 9 Part D – Week 12	20% + 20% (40% in total)
<b>2) Research Paper</b> Student explores a significant similarity or difference between Christianity and a particular religion (eg nature of salvation, nature of the Scriptures, nature of God) in response to a given video or text by a significant religious leader and the implications for Christian engagement. (2,000 words)	1,2, 4	Week 10	40%
<b>3) Creative Presentation (Visual or Oral)</b> 5-10 minute Presentation that explores another religion not covered in the Research Paper highlighting the lessons that could be learnt from the religion, and the resultant methodological and practical implications for Christian engagement. Students are expected to share their key findings to the class. (1,000 words)	1, 2, 4	Variable	20%

## 2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

### Prescribed Text

Farhadian, Charles E. *Introducing World Religions: A Christian Engagement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2015.

### Recommended Reading

Burnett, David. *Spirit of Buddhism: A Christian Perspective on Buddhist Thought*. 2nd ed. Crowborough, UK: Monarch Books, 2003.

Chapman, Colin. *Cross and Crescent: Responding to the Challenge of Islam*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2007.

Cohen, Charles L. Paul F. Knitter and Ulrich Rosenhagen (Eds.). *The Future of Interreligious Dialogue : A Multi-Religious Conversation on Nostra Aetate*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, .2017.

Fernando, Ajith. *Sharing the Truth in Love: How to Relate to People of Other Faiths*. Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery, 2001.

Hedges, Paul, and Alan Race. *Christian Approaches to Other Faiths: A Reader*. London: SCM Press, 2009.

Hexham, Irving. *Encountering World Religions: A Christian Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2019.

Hunt, Robert A. *Muslim Faith and Values: A Guide for Christians*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2019.

Kreeft, Peter. *Between Allah and Jesus: What Christians Can Learn from Muslims*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2010.

Netland, Harold A., and Keith A. Yandell. *Buddhism: A Christian Exploration and Appraisal*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

Panikkar, Raimon, and Milena Carrara Pavan, eds. *Hinduism and Christianity*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2019.

Partridge, Christopher H., and Tim Dowley, eds. *Introduction to World Religions*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2013.

Pennington, J. Paul. *Christian Barriers to Jesus: Conversations and Questions from the Indian Context*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2017.

Prothero, Stephen R. *God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World and Why their Differences Matter*. 2nd ed. Collingwood, VIC: Black, 2011.

Richard, H. L. *Rethinking Hindu Ministry*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2011.

Rodrigues, Hilary P. *Introducing Hinduism*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2017.

Woodberry, J. Dudley, ed. *From Seed to Fruit: Global Trends, Fruitful Practices, and Emerging Issues among Muslims*. 2nd ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2011.

Wright, Dale S. *Buddhism: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2020.