



Live Classes

World Religions & Refuting Cults

Mr. Larry Blythe, M.A.
Apologetics/Theology/Philosophy

Syllabus

2025-2026



Personal Note from Instructor:

“Jesus said ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” - John 14:6

There is a common belief in our culture that all religions lead to God. Is this true? Will Buddhism and Islam lead us to the same God that Christianity proclaims? In this course, students will study the claims of other religions in contrast to Christianity. In doing so, our students will discover the fundamental differences between Jesus and other gods, while preparing themselves to share the gospel with those who serve other gods.

Recommended Grade Level:

Recommended Grade: 9th-12 Grades, College through Adults - 7-8th graders if the student is mature and advanced

Prerequisites:

None.

Live Lecture Date & Time:

Mondays 12:00-1:00 pm ET

NOTE: The instructor does not require attendance of the live lectures but highly recommends students attend as many of the live lectures as possible to take advantage of live Q&A. Lectures are recorded and posted on the course Canvas page under the associated week and module. If you miss a lecture, please watch the recording. You can also use the recording for review as you prepare for the online exam.

Description:

Students will be studying the belief and practices of various world religions and cults by comparing and contrasting them to Biblical Christianity.

The Scriptures teach that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (Satan). Therefore, the world's false religious philosophies are Satan's doing. They are led by false teachers that disguise themselves as teachers of the truth and doers of righteousness.

Sadly, Christian cults and various false world religions are experiencing growth.

This in-depth high school worldview course begins with a look at numerous worldviews, followed by a study of world religions from a Christian perspective, an overview of modern-day cults, and a look at worldview apologetics. The course concludes with an in-depth study of refuting a few modern-day cults previously introduced, as well as other pertinent and timely topics.

Required Class Materials:

- Hodge, Bodie & Patterson, Roger. World Religions and Cults Book & Poster Set. Master Books. 2016 (ISBN 9780890519714)
- Comfort, Ray. World Religions in a Nutshell: A Compact Guide to Reaching Those of Other Faiths. Bridge-Logos Publishing. 2016. (ISBN 9780882709017)
- Carlson, Ron & Decker, Ed. Fast Facts on False Teachings, Harvest House Publishers. 2003. (ISBN 978-0736912143)
- McDowell, Josh & Walker, Jim. Understanding Islam & Christianity: Beliefs That Separate Us & How to Talk About Them. Harvest House Publishers. 2013. (ISBN 9780736949903)

- Rhodes, Ron. Reasoning From The Scriptures with The Jehovah's Witnesses, Updated and Expanded. Harvest House Publisher. 2009. (ISBN 9780736924511)
- Ankerberg, John, Weldon, John, & Burroughs, Dillon. Fast Facts on Mormonism. Harvest House Publishers. 2003. (ISBN 9780736922166)

Recommended Class Materials:

NA

Course Topics:

We will study world religions, cults, and religious movements using lectures, PowerPoint presentations, video clips, and class notes. Each week students should read the assigned sections of the textbooks prior to class in order to be prepared to learn about each group.

Semester I:

- Biblical Christianity
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Mormonism
- Seventh-day Adventism
- Unification Church
- Christian Science
- New Age
- Wicca
- Scientology
- Islam
- Nation of Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Others

Semester 2:

In this semester we will cover the following in more depth including advanced training in how to witness to those caught in the snare of these false religious systems:

- Jehovah's Witnesses: The Watchtower Bible & Tract Society\
- Mormonism: The 'Church of Jesus Christ' of Latter Day Saints
- Islam: Jihad or Jesus?

Assignment Structure:

50% = Weekly Reading & Class interaction - Very important. You receive mega points for this.

25% = Quizzes – Some easy, some tricky, but all open book

25% = Video Projects & Other

Grading:

Grading is based on a numerical percentage, not a letter grade.

Due Dates and Late Policy:

NA

Instructor Availability for Questions:

You can communicate with your instructor both during live classes and at MrBlythe@Apologia.com.