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LIVE CLASSES

# World Religions & Refuting Cults

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

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## Syllabus

2024-2025

## Description:

This course is a survey of world religions, major cults, and other deviant doctrines that challenge the historic Christian Faith. Topics cover questions like:

- Why are there so many religions?
- Is there only one path to God, Heaven, and ultimate fulfillment?
- How does Christianity compare to other religions?
- Does it really matter what others believe?

Students will learn about various world religions and how their belief systems differ from Christianity. You will journey from Judaism to Islam, from LDS to Jehovah's Witnesses, and from New Age to Scientology.

In the first semester, students will learn the characteristics of a cult and discover what makes Christianity unique, true, and the only rational worldview. Students will be trained in how to defend the exclusive truth of Christianity as they study the basic beliefs of major cults and world religions followed by biblical critique.

In the second semester, the focus will be on Islam, Mormonism, and “Jehovah’s Witnesses.” Students will learn step-by-step methods of witnessing to those who knock on their door. They will know what to do from the moment they open the door and a “Jehovah’s Witness” couple faces them.

## Prerequisites:

None.

Recommended Grade: 9th-12 Grades, College through Adults

\*7-8th graders if the student is mature and advanced

## Course 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)

## Course Progression:

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.

## 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**

## Class Canvas Portal:

Students will access the course through the Canvas course portal:

<https://apologia.instructure.com/>.

## Weekly Live Lecture:

Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. EST

## Help and Questions Outside of Live Class:

You can contact your instructor at [MrBlythe@Apologia.com](mailto:MrBlythe@Apologia.com).