

HUM2600

WORLD RELIGIONS



UTU • FALL 2022 • TUE/THURS 10:30-11:45



DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the academic study of religion, meaning the way scholars talk about religious beliefs and practices, and the people who participate in both. Over the next 16 weeks, we will look at a range of religious traditions, explore how these religions are lived in the contemporary world, and unpack the way popular culture and media talk about religion.



Throughout this course, you will develop a rigorous understanding of religion, and develop the tool necessary to critically engage in global conversations around the subject.

This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Literature/Humanities and is an approved Global and Cultural Perspectives course.



REQUIRED TEXTS

Prothero, *God is Not One*
(Harper One)

All other articles, links, documents, and videos will be available on Canvas.



EXPECTATIONS

This course is an introductory survey of world religion. I do not expect students to have prior knowledge about any of the traditions we cover or the way scholars study religion. That's what we're here to learn.

Part of a humanities or philosophy class is learning how to talk about challenging topics. I expect you to be prepared for each class, and ready to discuss the assigned material. Some reading may be challenging, and that's okay! Come to class with your questions and comments.

OUTCOMES

Identify the historical foundations for at least three living traditions cited in the course catalogue.

Describe the nature and diversity of religion, including points of commonality and difference.

Articulate questions presented by religion, including how other academic disciplines interact with the subject.

Critically analyze religious traditions, becoming aware of one's own biases when approaching primary texts.

LATE WORK

Assignments must be completed on time, unless prior approval is given. That said, I recognize this is a challenging time and I'm willing to work with you if you need additional support. Please email me as soon as possible to discuss extensions. Late assignments without prior approval will receive a 10% deduction per week they are late.

INTEGRITY

Please, don't cheat. Consequences range from a zero on the assignment to a failing grade in the course. If you have ANY questions, please reach out prior to submission.

Information on Academic Integrity can be found in policy 552: Student Rights and Responsibilities (section 4.2) at:

<https://utahtech.edu/policylibrary/>

ACCESSIBILITY

Utah Tech University strives to make learning materials and experiences accessible for all students, and I am happy to work with you to meet any accessibility needs. Please contact the Disability Resource Center to explore accommodations related to disability.





TECHNOLOGY

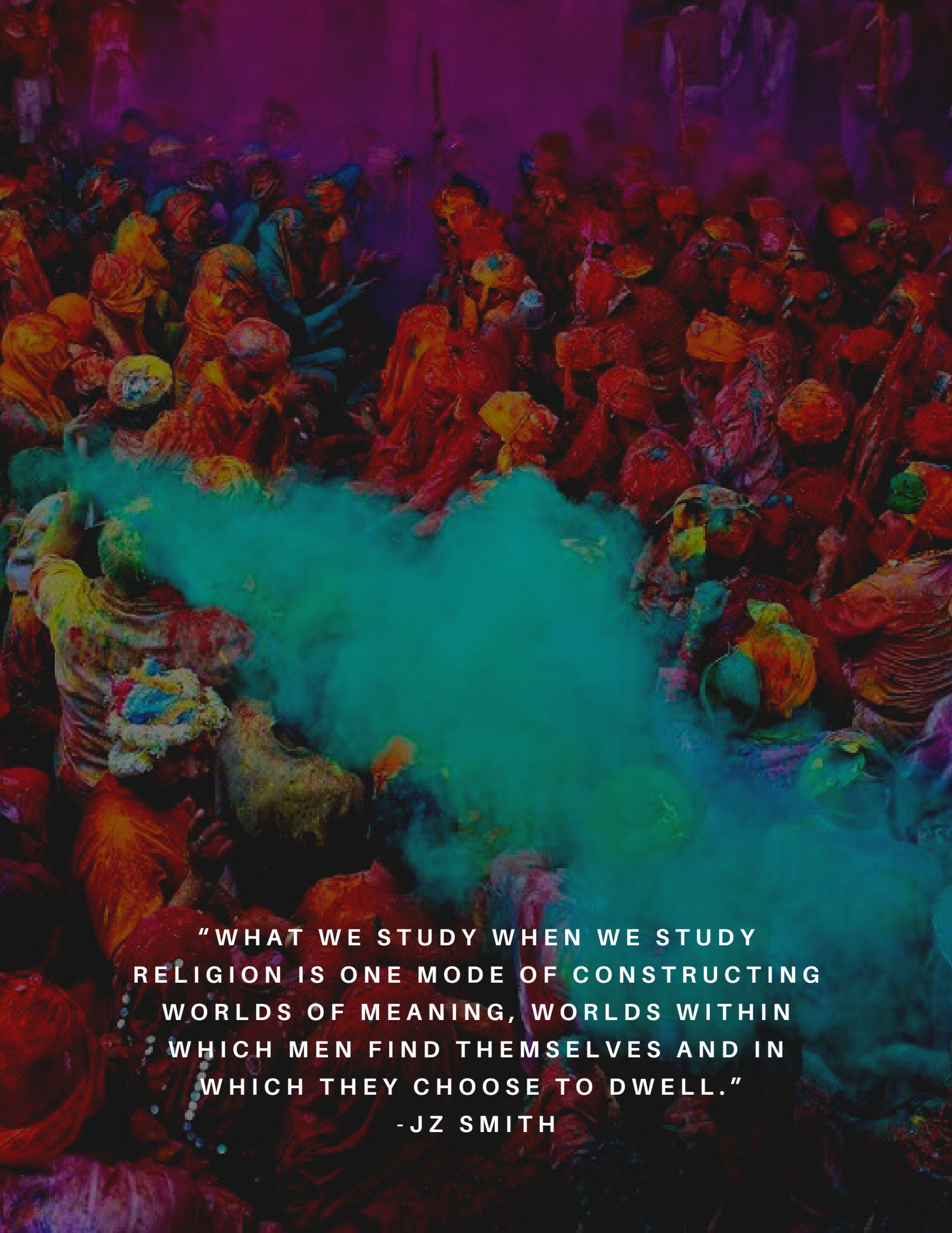
I welcome the use of laptops in the classroom to ensure everyone has their readings available in class, as well as for taking notes. Please limit laptop use to course content.

Check your Dmail account often!
Important class and university information will be sent to your Dmail account, including Utah Tech bills, financial aid/scholarship notices, notices of cancelled classes, reminders of dates and deadlines, and other information critical to your success at Utah Tech. To access your Dmail account, visit go.utahtech.edu/dmail
Your Dmail username is your D-ID.

GROUND RULES

Part of the humanities classroom is learning to engage with ideas that are different than your own. In this class, you will likely be challenged.

You are welcome to discuss personal beliefs. However, opinions and perspectives should maintain a spirit of inquiry and dialogue. I am committed to ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for these conversations.



"WHAT WE STUDY WHEN WE STUDY
RELIGION IS ONE MODE OF CONSTRUCTING
WORLDS OF MEANING, WORLDS WITHIN
WHICH MEN FIND THEMSELVES AND IN
WHICH THEY CHOOSE TO DWELL."

- JZ SMITH

TITLE IX

Utah Tech seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment/misconduct/assault you are encouraged to report this to the college's Title IX Director:

aHazel Sainsbury, Title IX Director
<https://titleix.utahtech.edu/>
435-652-7747.

Incidents may also be reported directly to law enforcement by calling 911.

IMPORTANT LINKS

DRC:

<https://drcenter.utahtech.edu/>

IT Help Desk:

<https://helpdesk.utahtech.edu/>

Library:

<http://library.utahtech.edu/>

Testing Center:

<https://testing.utahtech.edu/>

Tutoring Center:

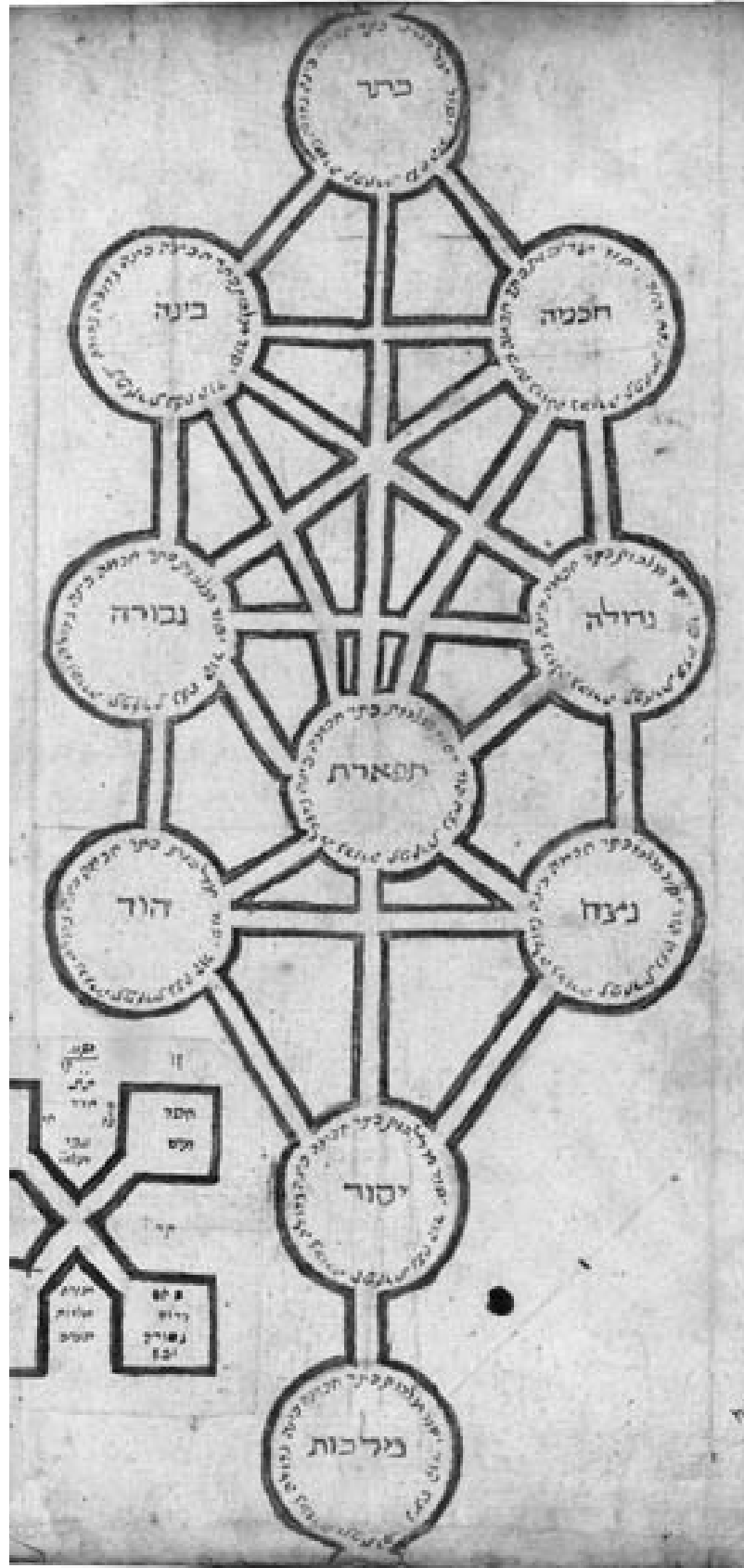
<https://tutoring.utahtech.edu/>

Writing Center:

<https://writingcenter.utahtech.edu/>

Academic Calendar:

<https://academics.utahtech.edu/academic-calendar/>





GRADING RUBRIC

Participation (25%)

Reading Notes (25%)

Religion in the News (20%)

Final Project (30%)

A = 94-100 | A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89 | B = 83-86 | B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79 | C = 73-76 | C- = 70-72

D+ = 67-69 | D = 63-66 | D- = 60-62

F = 59 and below



EXTRA CREDIT

For up to 2 percentage points, students have the option to attend a Humanities sponsored event on campus and write a 1 page (double-spaced) reflection. Extra credit assignments are due prior to final's week.

ASSIGNMENTS

PARTICIPATION

Participation is a required component of this course. Please show up prepared to discuss the readings and other assignments. Each class will be broken into two parts. The first half of the class will be devoted to lectures. The second half is devoted to discussing primary sources or media

Course participation offers an opportunity to learn how to discuss new and complex ideas in productive and meaningful ways.

READING NOTES

Humanities education is about learning to learn. This is a skill that will support both this course and your future academic journey at UTU. Reading notes demonstrate engagement with course material, and prepare you for active participation in course discussion.

Reading notes are due each Friday by 5pm.



ASSIGNMENTS



RELIGION IN THE NEWS

Religion is everywhere, and frequently make headlines. We just have to look for it. Midway through the class, you'll find a news article relevant to the themes we've discussed in the class. After reading the article, you'll write a two page (double-spaced) summary of the article and how it relates to topics we've discussed in class.

You'll discuss the article in your discussion group and submit your two page analysis by the end of class on 10/10.

FINAL PROJECT

"World religions" are everywhere, even in your neighborhood. What does your community's religious landscape look like? How does this compare to the nation? For this project, you will use a series of worksheets to gather data about your religious surroundings, compare the data to the nation, and discover the way "world religions" permeate your own world.

Once you complete the worksheets, you'll submit a 2 page (double spaced) reflection on your religious landscape, possibilities for interfaith engagement, and how the exercise shifted your perception of "world religion."

CLASS SCHEDULE

| DATE | TOPIC | ASSIGNMENTS |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Week 1: 8/23-8/25 | Introduction What is religion? | Review Syllabus and Introductions Prothero, "Introduction" |
| Week 2: 8/30-9/1 | What is a "World Religion"? How do we study religion? | Steinfels, "Globally, Religion Defies Easily Identified Patterns" Orsi, "Snakes Alive" |
| Week 3: 9/6-9/8 | Hinduism | Prothero, "Hinduism" AFP, "India at 75: Why minorities are sleepless and feeling insecure" |
| Week 4: 9/13-9/15 | Jainism | Muesse, "Jainism" McCarthy, "Fasting to the Death: Is it a Religious Rite or Suicide?" |
| Week 5: 9/20-9/22 | Taoism/ Confucianism | Prothero, "Taoism" Prothero, "Confucianism" Poon, "Controlling Religions with Chinese Characteristics" |
| Week 6: 9/27-9/29 | Shinto | Andreeva, "Introduction: What is Shinto?" Doyle, "Marie Kondo Credits This Spiritual Practice With Helping Her Figure Out Her Tidying Philosophy" |
| Week 7: 10/4-10/6 | Buddhism | Prothero, "Buddhism" RNS, "Hindus in India Are Converting to Buddhism" |
| Week 8: 10/11-10/13 | RELIGION IN THE NEWS PROJECT! | RELIGION IN THE NEWS PROJECT DUE 10/11! NO CLASS ON 10/14 (FALL BREAK)! |

CLASS SCHEDULE

| DATE | TOPIC | ASSIGNMENTS |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Week 9: 10/18-10/20 | Zoroastrianism | Rowell, "Zoroastrianism and the Abrahamic Faiths" Walker, "The Last of the Zoroastrians" |
| Week 10: 10/25-10/27 | Judaism | Prothero, "Judaism" Fraser, "For Haredi Jews secular Zionism remains a religious heresy" |
| Week 11: 11/1-11/3 | Christianity | Prothero, "Christianity" Kelaidis, "Make no mistake, if there's a war between Russia and Ukraine, it will be a religious war" |
| Week 12: 11/8-11/10 | Islam | Prothero, "Islam" Keeping It 101 (Episode 308): "Islam is More Than You Think It Is" |
| Week 13: 11/15-11/17 | Sikhism | Jakobsh, "Sikh History" Dirks, "Remember the Oak Creek killings, a harbinger of white supremacist violence" |
| Week 14: 11/22-11/24 | WORKSHOP DAY | NO CLASS 11/23-25! HAPPY THANKSGIVING! |
| Week 15: 11/29-12/1 | Indigenous Religion | Albanese, "Indigenous Religion" Bailey, "The Dakota Access Pipeline isn't just about the environment. It's about religion." |
| Week 16: 12/6-12/8 | Diasporic Religion | Prothero, "Yoruban Religion" Beyonce, Lemonade Roberts, "What Beyonce Teaches Us" |
| FINALS! | NO CLASS MEETING! | FINAL PROJECT DUE 12/13 BY 5PM! |

DUE DATES

Method Notes: 9/2

Hinduism Notes: 9/9

Jainism Notes: 9/16

Taoism/Confucianism Notes: 9/23

Shinto Notes: 9/30

Buddhism Notes: 10/7

Religion in the News: 10/11 (in class)

Zoroastrianism Notes : 10/21

Judaism Notes: 10/28

Christianity Notes: 11/4

Islam Notes: 11/11

Sikhism Notes: 11/18

Workshop Day: 11/22

Indigenous Religion Notes: 12/7

Diasporic Religion Notes: 12/9

Final Project: 12/13 by 5pm

UT DATES AT-A-GLANCE

Classes begin: 8/22

Last day to add w/o signature: 8/26

Last day for refund of fees: 9/12

Last day to withdraw with a "W": 9/12

Last day to add/audit classes: 9/19

Last day to withdraw from a class: 10/18

Last day for complete withdrawal: 11/11

Last day of classes: 12/9

Final Exam dates: 12/12

Final grades due: 12/20





FACULTY CONTACT



Instructor: Dr. Cristina Rosetti
Email: cristina.rosetti@utahtech.edu
Office: University Plaza B 112
Phone: 435-652-7807

Office hours: Tues./Thurs. 1-3pm
or by appointment.

I usually reply to email within 24
hours. Reach out early and often!