Social Studies Department Mission:

Our mission is to equip students with knowledge and skills so they can be active global citizens, curious thinkers and empathetic and compassionate human beings through our dynamic teaching and collaboration.

Course Purpose: Students will spend the semester learning primarily about the religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, Christianity and Islam. However, students will spend a significant amount of time discussing their own faith/religion as well as the faith/religion of their classmates. Students will be exposed to several trips to different religious centers and will be given ample opportunities to compare and contrast religion in a variety of ways. This includes, but is not limited to; religious texts, media, discussion boards, in-class discussions and secondary & tertiary sources. The goal is to have young people who better understand their own beliefs and the beliefs of their fellow citizens.

Dimensions of Religion:
1. Democratic vs. Autocratic - Who determines beliefs & practices?
2. Orthodox vs. Orthoprax - Which is more important: beliefs or practices?
3. Worldly vs Monastic - In the world or separate from it?
4. Cultural vs Separate - Is religion an extension of culture or separate from it?
5. Individual vs. Corporate - Is it practiced alone or in groups?
6. Inclusive vs Exclusive - What & how stringent are the criteria for membership?
7. Diverse vs Unified - Does the religious experience vary from person to person or does it stay the same?

Course Objectives:

a. Students will analyze the correlation between religion & the economic, social, & political aspects of the world’s cultures.
b. Students will demonstrate a true working knowledge of the beliefs & practices of the world’s religions.
c. Students will be exposed to other worldviews through the reading of sacred scripture, watching modern media that touch on religious ideas, visiting places of worship, & communicating with clergy as well as laypeople of different faiths.
d. Students will develop an awareness of religious issues and be willing & able to discuss them openly with others.
e. Students will demonstrate an appreciation for the contributions of each of these religions to our world.

Skill Standards:

1. Create an empathetic understanding of major religions of the world by integrating factual knowledge of the religions with personal experience or reflection (Synthesis)
2. Compare and contrast basic beliefs and practices of major religions of the world (Analysis)
3. Research and form conclusions on topics associated with major religions of the world today (Evaluation)

Content Standards:

1. Examine how religions answer the question; “Who are we?” (Humanity)
2. Determine how religions answer the question; “What is the nature of the world & the divine?” (Cosmos & Deity)
3. Assess how religions answer the question; “What is humanity’s relationship to the divine?” (Humanity & Deity)
Semester Grade – (Formative and Summative) 80% + (Final Project) 20% = Semester Grade

Formative Work – 20% - Reading Quizzes, Vocabulary Quizzes, Textbook Questions, Notes, Worksheets, etc. All formative work must be complete in order to retake a summative exam

Summative Work - 80% - Tests, Projects, Essays

Academic Integrity: We want to receive your work throughout this semester. There will be strict consequences for any work turned in that does not adhere to the academic integrity code here at NNHS. If you use an outside source, cite it!