Thornton Donovan School

Mr. Van Lesberghe

RELIGION IN AMERICA

Class descriptive:

The class will take the students on a religious trip around time and faith. Based on John Bowker’s book *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored & Explained*, the class will take a refreshing new approach to understanding different faiths. RELIGION IN AMERICA will looks at the beliefs and practices of many different religions including but not limited to Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.

This class is not a Religious Council telling who is right and who is wrong but a comparative approach to faith, belief, and religions.

Jesus said: “I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to God but by me.” The Roman Catholic Church says: “There is no salvation outside THE church.” Buddha said: “You can achieve your Nirvana.” The Christians say: “Jesus is God incarnate.” The concept that God is incarnate in any human being is considered blasphemy from the Islamic point of view.

Can we reconcile these differences? Are there common values and morals to all religions? We will discuss these and many more topics in class and research historical and modern writings about the subject.

Class requirement:

The students will do the assigned reading and research as scheduled.

Each student will come ready to learn and work individually on research, homework, and various quizzes and tests.

Students will have regular homework, quizzes, and exams on the various aspects of the class. Mid-term and Final Exams will also be scheduled.