

Alfred Class in Religion To Visit Services in City

ALFRED — An Alfred University class in the World's Great Religions will make a field trip to New York City during the holidays to attend services conducted by six different faiths about which they have studied.

Richard Bredenberg, University chaplain and assistant professor of religion, said that his class will be the first from Alfred to make such a tour. Although schools in the New York City area have taken classes to services of other major religions, Bredenberg said, he knows of none which have planned such an extensive study.

"We do not understand the Eastern mind because we always see it through the eyes of a Westerner and we do not appreciate the Eastern religions because we learn about them from a Christian or a Jew," Bredenberg said. "This experiment in education is an attempt to get the strongest statement and the most dramatic presentation possible of the Eastern religions from those who firmly adhere to them."

World's Great Religions is not a course which attempts to study the different faiths by comparing them to Christianity, Professor Bredenberg said.

"The only requirement is that the students learn the basic tenets of eight major religions," he explained. "Beyond that, I let their interests guide them in learning more about the history or practices of these religions and their findings are the basis of class discussion."

The students already have studied each of the religions which they will see in practice, Bredenberg said, but at each stop of the tour they first will meet with a member of the clergy who will describe the service and explain the significance of the pattern of worship. The class will then attend a service or an enactment of the service to become personally familiar with it.

Nearly half of the 26 students in the class live in New York City or within commuting distance, but others will make a special trip to take part in the field study during the weekend of Jan. 2-4.

The class will visit first the China Institute in America, Inc., under the University of the State of New York. Dr. Chih Meng, Director, will be host to the group at 8 p.m. January 2.

On Saturday the class will visit: Vedanta Society at 34 West 71 Street where Swami Pavitrananda will be the host at 11 a.m.

Islamic Mission of America, Inc.

for the propagation of "Islam" - Defender of the Faith and the Faithful Mosque-Arabic and Islamic Institute at 143 State St. in Brooklyn at 2 p.m. The Rev. Sheikh, Daoud Ahmed Faisal, Spiritual Head - Defender of the Faith, will be their host.

New York Buddhist Church at 171 West 94 St. at 5 p.m. The Rev. Egen I. Yoshikami, minister, will be the host.

The Yoga Institute of New York at 50 East 81 Street at 8 p.m. The host will be Sachin Majumdar, director.

On Sunday the class will visit The First Zen Institute of America, Inc., at 156 Waverly Place, at 9 a.m. Their hostess will be Mary Farks, secretary.