

Course Title: REL 150 Religions Of The World

Term: Winter 2023

Instructor: TBA

Course Credit: 3

Mode of Instruction: Online

Course Description:

This course provides a clear and concise introduction to the major world religions. Students will learn about the people, places, practices and philosophies shaping today's events. After exploring the religions that have shaped history, civilizations and the next door neighbors views, students will learn about the founders, the history and essential teachings of each of these major religions: Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Confucianism, and Taoism, plus brief descriptions of other religions and religious practices.

Course Prerequisites:

N/A

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Identify and analyze the basic perspectives and characteristic practices of the major religions of the world;
- B. Define, summarize, and analyze the major similarities and differences between various religious worldviews;
- C. Use critical thinking methods appropriate to the interpretation and appraisal of religious ideas to analyze and evaluate the ways in which various religions approach life and its problems;
- D. Locate, evaluate, and use effectively information from a variety of relevant sources;

E. Participate actively in discussions of religious ideas and issues.

Course Material:

Christopher Partridge, *Introduction to World Religions*, 2th Edition, Fortress Press, 2014.

Evaluation:

- 4 Assignments [40%]
- Mid-term Exam [25%]
- Final Exam [35%]

Description of the Evaluation tasks:

Assignment/ Essay/ ... : During the term, students will be required to finish several evaluation tasks within due date. All the tasks are linked with specific course topics/outcomes and will adequately assess students' competence and learning outcomes. Students are encouraged to meet with instructor about these tasks at any point.

Mid-term/ Final Exams/ Quiz/... : There may be periodic quizzes given at the beginning of lecture sessions; the feedback from these quizzes will monitor the progress of the learners and help to set learning priorities. There will be mid-term exam/ final exam for the course. They are the basic criteria for the evaluation of students' learning outcomes and final grade.

Grading Policy:

Students are supposed to finish each online lecture. Prior to each class, students should finish the required readings. During the class time, students are encouraged to make use of all relevant online course resources and communicate with the instructor. Students' grades are accumulated based on the cumulative evaluations.

Students' letter grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ 90-100	A 85-89	A- 80-84
B+ 77-79	B 73-76	B- 70-72
C+ 67-69	C 63-66	C- 60-62
D+ 57-59	D 53-56	D- 50-52
F < 50		

Academic Integrity:

Students must strictly adhere to the university's academic integrity rule; and all essays, exams and any other form of academic assignments must adhere to these rules. Any form of plagiarism, cheating, or misappropriation of materials will be considered a violation of academic integrity and will be punishable by the university.

Withdrawal from the Course(s):

Students will be able to apply for a transfer or withdrawal within 3 days of the starting date of the course. If a withdrawal is applied for within 3 working days, the tuition fee will be fully refunded. After 3 days, the tuition fee will not be refunded. If a withdrawal is applied for in the first two weeks, it will be recorded as W (Withdraw) on the course transcript. After this initial two-week period, the class will be recorded as F (Fail).

Tentative Schedule:

1	What is Religion?
2	Theological Approaches to the Study of Religion
3	Religion before History
4	Land of the Aztecs and Incas
5	The Anthropology of Religion Assignment#1

6	The Ancient Near East
7	Ancient Egypt
8	The Religion of the Celts
9	Holy Places, Sacred Calendars
10	The Religions of Scandinavia Assignment#2
11	Australian Aboriginal Religions
12	Norse Shamanism
13	Mid-term Exam
14	African Indigenous Religions
15	The Bangwa Assignment#3
16	Hinduism in the Modern World
17	Buddhism in the Modern World
18	Jainism in the Modern World
19	Christianity in Contemporary China
20	Buddhism in the Modern World Assignment#4
21	Divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures
22	Branches of Judaism
23	Contemporary Christianity
24	The Law of Islam
25	Final Exam