REL-1010: INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: REL-1010 : Introduction to Religious Studies

Board of Trustees:
1997-10-23

Academic Term:
1998-08-26

Subject Code
REL - Religious Studies

Course Number:
1010

Title:
Introduction to Religious Studies

Catalog Description:
Comprehensive introduction to concepts of religion, attributes of God, myth and symbol, faith and reason, rituals, and overview of major historical religions.

Credit Hour(s):
3

Lecture Hour(s):
3

Lab Hour(s):
0

Other Hour(s):
0

Requisites
Prerequisite and Corequisite
None.

I. ACADEMIC CREDIT

Academic Credit According to the Ohio Department of Higher Education, one (1) semester hour of college credit will be awarded for each lecture hour. Students will be expected to work on out-of-class assignments on a regular basis which, over the length of the course, would normally average two hours of out-of-class study for each hour of formal class activity. For laboratory hours, one (1) credit shall be awarded for a minimum of three laboratory hours in a standard week for which little or no out-of-class study is required since three hours will be in the lab (i.e. Laboratory 03 hours). Whereas, one (1) credit shall be awarded for a minimum of two laboratory hours in a standard week, if supplemented by out-of-class assignments which would normally average one hour of out-of-class study preparing for or following up the laboratory experience (i.e. Laboratory 02 hours). Credit is also awarded for other hours such as directed practice, practicum, cooperative work experience, and field experience. The number of hours required to receive credit is listed under Other Hours on the syllabus. The number of credit hours for lecture, lab and other hours are listed at the beginning of the syllabus. Make sure you can prioritize your time accordingly. Proper planning, prioritization and dedication will enhance your success in this course.

The standard expectation for an online course is that you will spend 3 hours per week for each credit hour.

II. ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

If you need any special course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, please notify your instructor within a reasonable length of time, preferably the first week of the term with formal notice of that need (i.e. an official letter from the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office). Accommodations will not be made retroactively.
For specific information pertaining to ADA accommodation, please contact your campus SAS office or visit online at https://www.tri-c.edu/student-accessibility-services. Blackboard accessibility information is available at http://access.blackboard.com.

III. ATTENDANCE TRACKING

Regular class attendance is expected. Tri-C is required by law to verify the enrollment of students who participate in federal Title IV student aid programs and/or who receive educational benefits through other funding sources. Eligibility for federal student financial aid is based in part on enrollment status.

Students who do not attend classes for the entire term are required to withdraw from the course(s). Additionally, students who withdraw from a course or stop attending class without officially withdrawing may be required to return all or a portion of their financial aid based on the date of last attendance. Students who do not attend the full session are responsible for withdrawing from the course(s).

Tri-C is responsible for identifying students who have not attended a course before financial aid funds can be applied to students’ accounts.

Therefore, attendance is recorded in the following ways:

- For in-person and blended-learning courses, students are required to attend the course by the 15th day of the semester (or equivalent for terms shorter than five weeks) to be considered attending. Students who have not met all attendance requirements for in-person and blended courses, as described herein, within the first two weeks or equivalent, will be considered not attending.
- For online courses, students are required to login at least two times per week and submit one assignment per week for the first two weeks of the semester, or equivalent to the 15th day of the term. Students who have not met all attendance requirements for online courses, as described herein, within the first two weeks or equivalent, will be considered not attending.

At the conclusion of the first two weeks of a semester or equivalent, instructors report any registered students who have "Never Attended" a course. Those students will be administratively withdrawn from that course. However, after the time period in the previous paragraphs, if a student stops attending a class or wants or needs to withdraw, for any reason, it is the student’s responsibility to take action to withdraw from the course. Students must complete and submit the appropriate Tri-C form by the established withdrawal deadline.

Tri-C is required to ensure that students receive financial aid only for courses that they attend and complete. Students reported for not attending at least one of their registered courses will have all financial aid funds held until confirmation of attendance in registered courses has been verified. Students who fail to complete at least one course may be required to repay all or a portion of their federal financial aid funds and may be ineligible to receive future federal financial aid awards. Students who withdraw from classes prior to completing more than 60 percent of their enrolled class time may be subject to the required federal refund policy.

If illness or emergency should necessitate a brief absence from class, students should confer with instructors upon their return. Students having problems with coursework due to a prolonged absence should confer with the instructor or a counselor.

IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

Occasionally, in addition to submitting assignments to their instructors for evaluation and a grade, students will also be asked to submit completed assignments, called ‘artifacts,’ for assessment of course and program outcomes and the College’s Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs). The artifacts will be submitted in Blackboard or a similar technology. The level of mastery of the outcome demonstrated by the artifact DOES NOT affect the student’s grade or academic record in any way. However, some instructors require that students submit their artifact before receiving their final grade. Some artifacts will be randomly selected for assessment, which will help determine improvements and support needed to further student success. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with your instructor or contact the Learning Outcomes Assessment office.

V. CONCEALED CARRY STATEMENT

College policy prohibits the possession of weapons on college property by students, faculty and staff, unless specifically approved in advance as a job-related requirement (i.e., Tri-C campus police officers) or, in accordance with Ohio law, secured in a parked vehicle in a designated parking area only by an individual in possession of a valid conceal carry permit.

As a Tri-C student, your behavior on campus must comply with the student code of conduct which is available on page 29 within the Tri-C student handbook, available at http://www.tri-c.edu/student-resources/documents/studenthandbook.pdf You must also comply with the College’s Zero Tolerance for Violence on College Property available at http://www.tri-c.edu/policies-and-procedures/documents/3354-1-20-10-zero-tolerance-for-violence-policy.pdf
VI. CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 STATEMENT

Students are responsible for adhering to all College health and safety guidance, including that which relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public health requirements and standards are changing rapidly, and the College is adapting its guidance accordingly. Please check your Tri-C email and visit tri-c.edu/coronavirus regularly for updates.

All students must adhere to the following general guidelines, until further notice:

• Remain at home if you are ill or experiencing symptoms of illness. Do not attend any in-person class or gathering.
• Notify your instructor(s) if you are ill, have tested positive for COVID-19, or were exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 and they will report the information to the Tri-C Compliance & Risk Management team and you may be contacted for follow-up information.
• Wear a mask or face covering at all times, including, but not limited to: upon entering and exiting any Tri-C facility, in class, and in all common areas.
• Maintain a distance of at least six feet between yourself and others at all times and if you must pass near an individual do it quickly and do not linger.
• Provide the College with relevant information about your current health status and participate in any required on-site checks (e.g., temperature checks, current contact information, symptom profile, etc.).
• Use only designated areas of Tri-C facilities, including entrances and exits. Sign in and out of Tri-C facilities as directed.

The general guidelines listed above do not encompass all coronavirus-related guidance. These guidelines are subject to change at the discretion of the College and under the direction of public health authorities. Students who fail to adhere to this guidance may be subject to disciplinary action under the College's Student Code of Conduct and the Student Judicial Code.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

1.

Objective(s):

1. Understand the concept of religion and its importance in the world of Western and Eastern cultures.
2. Gain insight into the dynamics and teachings of the world's major religious traditions.
3. Engage in further study involving religious traditions of the world.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Periodic quizzes and/or
2. Term papers and/or
3. Oral presentations and/or
4. Midterm and/or Final examinations

Course Content Outline:

1. Definition of religion
   a. Latin 'religion'
      i. religion is the response of human beings to the human condition
      ii. rises out of a sense of futility–powerlessness to rise above the human condition
   b. Six dimensions of religion
      i. doctrine and teaching
      ii. myth and symbol
      iii. ethics and codes of conduct
      iv. ritual and liturgy
      v. religious experience
      vi. social/institutional organization
   c. Worldview
      i. supernatural vs. natural
      ii. dualism
      iii. pluralism
   d. Contemporary disdain for religion
2. Doctrine and teachings
   a. Who is God?
      i. monotheism vs. polytheism
      ii. agnosticism and atheism
      iii. deism and natural religion
iv. proofs for the existence of God
v. what kind of God? (attributes: a personal God?)

b. Faith and reason
i. belief system to explain all of reality
ii. revelation
iii. scriptures
iv. tradition
v. prophecy
c. Two traditions
i. Western (Semitic roots: includes Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and their offshoots; prophetic; 'world affirming')
ii. Eastern (Indian roots: includes Hinduism, Buddhism, and their offshoots; mystical; 'world denying')
d. Timeline and historical overview
i. ethnic religions
ii. Hinduism
iii. Buddhism
iv. religions of China and Japan
v. Jainism
vi. Sikhism
vii. Judaism
viii. Christianity
ix. Islam

3. Myth and symbol
a. Notion of symbol (vs. sign): notion of myth
b. Stories about God and the gods
i. creation and salvation
ii. interpretation of historical events
c. Religious art and architecture

4. Ethics and codes of conduct
a. Arise from myths and scriptures
i. absolute vs. relative moral norms
ii. virtue
iii. grace
iv. a good person vs. good action
b. Law codes
i. Torah
ii. Ten Commandments
iii. Tao
iv. Yoga

5. Ritual and liturgy
a. Notion of ritual
b. Notion of liturgy

6. Religious experience
a. Western vs. Eastern tradition
b. Spirituality
i. mysticism
ii. asceticism
iii. prophecy
iv. glossolalia

7. Social/institutional aspects
a. Ecclesiology: concept of church
b. Sociological and anthropomorphical aspects
c. Role of religious leaders

Resources


‘Eerdman’s Handbook to the World’s Religions’

**Instructional Services**

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