

REL-2000: COMPARATIVE WORLD RELIGIONS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: REL-2000 : Comparative World Religions

Board of Trustees:

March 2023

Academic Term:

Fall 2023

Subject Code

REL - Religious Studies

Course Number:

2000

Title:

Comparative World Religions

Catalog Description:

Study of origin, nature, and meaning of major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Daoism, and Confucianism.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1010 College Composition I or ENG-101H Honors College Composition I, or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Critically analyze and make distinctions between the cultural and historical customs, principles, terminology and practices of the world's major religious traditions, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism, Confucianism, and Daoism.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Oral Communication: Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication for an intended audience that is clear, organized, and delivered effectively following the standard conventions of that language.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

- a. Discuss the overarching concept of religion from differing perspectives.
- b. Explain historical developments, methodologies, language, and beliefs of major religions.
- c. Evaluate and analyze various cultural customs and traditions through primary texts and religious canons.
- d. Critically examine recurring factors and philosophical applications within rituals, customs and practices.
- e. Identify commonalities and differences among cross cultural religious practices from an informed perspective.

- f. Compare ethical, metaphysical or epistemological aspects of contemporary religious trends.
 - g. Examine how religious beliefs inform and influence concepts of the self in cross-cultural contemporary societies.
 - h. Address ethical, metaphysical and/or epistemological perspectives as incorporated in selected religious traditions.
 - i. Discuss distinct religious perspectives including: myths, rituals, transformation, rites of passage, and the concept of the divine.
 - j. Communicate orally and in writing about a selected religion from a philosophical and historically relevant perspective.
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Methods of Evaluation:

- a. Essay discussion questions and substantive writing assignments
- b. Minimum of two examinations
- c. Midpoint quizzes
- d. Comparative research project
- e. Participation in reflective class discussion and oral presentations
- f. Present a reflective synopsis of a religion of choice
- g. Critical thinking and analytical questioning of ideas

Course Content Outline:

- a. Religion: what is it and why study it?
 - i. Distinction between the history, anthropology, and philosophy of religion
 - ii. Major concepts in religion
 - iii. Study of religion versus comparative philosophy
 - iv. Common ground and defensible difference
 - v. Deities and gods
 - vi. Definition of what is not religion
 - vii. Reason versus faith
 - viii. Philosophical religious practices
- b. Judaism
 - i. Hebrew religion as the idea and challenge of the One
 - ii. Origin, background, and history
 - iii. Hebrew religion as a theology and a way of life
 - iv. Principal Jewish festivals: origin and meaning
 - v. Medieval thinkers versus Greek thought
 - vi. 21st century Judaism
- c. Christianity
 - i. Origin and earliest developments
 - ii. Jesus of history
 - iii. Christ of faith
 - iv. Christianity as a philosophy and as a religion
 - v. Old Testament and New Testament eclecticism
- d. Islam
 - i. Short history of the Semitic tribes
 - ii. Old Testament and New Testament background
 - iii. Origin of Islam
 - iv. Life of Mohammed
 - v. The message of Allah
 - vi. The sacred book of Islam, the Qur'an
 - vii. The development and teaching of the movement
- e. Buddhism
 - i. The life of Siddhartha Gautama (Kapilavatthu)
 - ii. Entry of Buddhism in China (6th century B.C.)
 - iii. Buddhism as a religion and as a way of life
 - iv. Buddhism versus fatalism of Confucianism
 - v. Zen Buddhism as a blending of Taoist intuitionism and Buddhism (6th century A.D.)
 - vi. Buddhism in China and Japan
 - vii. The basic ideals of Buddhism
- f. Hinduism

- i. The religious phenomenon of India
- ii. The wave of Nordics to India, circa 1700 B.C.
- iii. Religious development in India: various periods
- iv. Brahma as the creator
- v. The gods of India
- vi. Varna or the Caste (religious and sociopolitical meaning)
- vii. Sacred literature (Veda and Upanishads)
- viii. The meaning of Karma
- ix. Eclecticism with modern religions
- g. Confucianism
 - i. The life of Kung-fu-tzu (Confucius), 6th century B.C.
 - ii. Religion as philosophy
 - iii. Confucius' and Lao-Tsu's ideas of the great Tao
 - iv. The essential goodness of man as basic to Confucius' religious philosophy
 - v. The religious philosophy of Confucius
 - vi. Neo-Confucianism of Chu His, 12th century A.D.
 - vii. China and Christianity: 6th, 13th, and 17th centuries
- h. Daoism: the Way of Flourishing
 - i. At a Glance, Daoism 101
 - 1. How to flourish
 - 2. The Dao
 - 3. Yin and Yang
 - ii. Divinity in Daoism
 - 1. Immortals and Perfected Persons
 - 2. "Three Pure Ones"
 - 3. Queen Mother of the West
 - iii. History
 - 1. Laozi and the Daodejing
 - 2. Zhuangzi
 - 3. Celestial Masters
 - 4. Highest Clarity
 - 5. Way of Complete Perfection and Modern Daoism
 - 6. Ming, Qing and Dragon Gate
 - iv. Daoist Rituals
 - 1. Meditation
 - 2. Alchemy
 - 3. Offerings

Resources

Fisher, Mary Pat. *Living Religions*. 10th ed. Prentice-Hall, 2016.

Molloy, Michael. *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change*. 8th ed. McGraw-Hill, New York, 2021. <https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/9781260813760>

Oxtoby, Willard G., Roy C. Amore, Amir Hussain and Alan F. Segal. *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. 4th ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2019.

Prothero, Stephen. *Religion Matters: An Introduction to World Religions*. One. New York, New York W.W. Norton and Company, 2020. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Prothero, Stephen. *God is Not One: the Eight Rival Religions that Run the World*. Harper One, 2011.

Robert E. Van Voorst. *Introduction to World Religions*. 4th ed. Cengage Boston, MA, 2018.

Resources Other

Sacred Text Archive

Buddhism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/bud/>)
Christianity (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/>)
Confucianism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/cfu/>)
Jainism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/jai/>)
Judaism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/>)
Hinduism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/>)
Islam (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/isl/>)
Mormonism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/mor/>)
Paganism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/pag/>)
Shinto (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/>)
Sikhism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/skh/>)
Taoism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/tao/>)
Zoroastrianism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/zor/>)
<https://www.sacred-texts.com/index.htm> (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/>)

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

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