

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 120 – WORLD RELIGIONS

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Introduction to the teachings, major figures, attitudes and practices of world religions.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) What is Religion?
- 2) Goddesses in Pre-historic Religions
- 3) Religions in Antiquity
 - a. Egypt
 - b. Scandinavia
 - c. Greece & Rome
 - d. Americas
- 4) Religions Originating in Africa, the Americas, and Oceania
 - a. Native American ~~Indian~~ religions
 - b. African religions
 - c. Religions of Oceania
- 5) Religions Originating in India
 - a. Hinduism
 - b. Jainism
 - c. Buddhism
 - d. Sikhism
- 6) Religions Originating in China and Japan
 - a. Chinese religions
 - b. Shinto
- 7) Religions Originating in the Middle East
 - a. Zoroastrianism
 - b. Judaism
 - c. Christianity
 - d. Islam
 - e. Baha'i
- 8) New Religions
 - a. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)
 - b. Wicca
 - c. Scientology
- 9) World Religion Today

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Create a definition of religion in light of the diverse perspectives represented in the world's religions.
- 2) Compare and contrast the central concepts and worldviews espoused by the various religious traditions of the world.
- 3) Identify and evaluate the essential characteristics of the various world religions.

- 4) Analyze the myths and symbols of the various world religions.
- 5) Analyze the rituals and practices of the various world religions.
- 6) Interpret how the social, cultural, and/or historical context of a religion informs its central concepts, beliefs, rituals, and practices.
- 7) Analyze and apply the central concepts, beliefs, rituals, or practices of a religion to students' own lives, identities, and experiences.
- 8) Analyze how religion was or is used to contest, assert, or mediate social and cultural power related to race, class, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality, etc.
- 9) Develop an argument or thesis statement related to world religions and support that argument with reliable evidence.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation.

- 1) Writing assignments, in-class group activities, essays, research papers, reflections/journals, quizzes, and exams that measure students' ability to:
 - a. Interpret how the social, cultural, and/or historical context of a religion informs the central concepts, beliefs, rituals, and practices.
 - b. Analyze and apply the central concepts, beliefs, rituals, or practices of a religion to students' own lives, identities, and experiences.
 - c. Analyze how religion was or is used to contest, assert, or mediate social and cultural power related to race, class, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality, etc.
 - d. Develop an argument or thesis statement related to world religions and support that argument with reliable evidence.
- 2) Reports which measure students' ability to describe, analyze, and reflect on field experiences that bring them into direct personal contact with the practices and practitioners of the world's religions.
- 3) Group or individual projects or research papers that require students to investigate and analyze contemporary forms of religious or spiritual expression.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and guest speakers
- 2) Small and large group discussions
- 3) Individual and group project presentations
- 4) Multimedia presentations
- 5) Field trips or experiences: visits to relevant religious organizations and sites

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Essays and written assignments that identify and explore the philosophical perspectives of the various world religions
- 2) Written homework assignments (worksheets, journals, etc.) that summarize and/or reflect upon the assigned reading materials
- 3) Reports on field experiences that bring the student into first-hand contact with the religious traditions studied in class

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Amore, Roy C. et al. *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. 4th edition. Oxford Press, 2019.

- b. Partridge, Christopher. *Introduction to World Religions*. 3rd edition. Fortress Press, 2018.
 - c. Young, William. *The World's Religions*. 4th edition. Pearson, 2013.
- 2) Supplemental:
- a. (OER) Florida State College at Jacksonville. *World Religions*. Florida State College at Jacksonville, 2017.
 - b. Neusner, Jacob, ed. *World Religions in America*. 4th edition. Westminster John Knox, 2010.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Interpret how the social, cultural, and/or historical context of a religion informs the central concepts, beliefs, rituals, and practices.
- 2) Analyze and apply the central concepts, beliefs, rituals, or practices of a religion to students' own lives, identities, and experiences.
- 3) Analyze how religion was or is used to contest, assert, or mediate social and cultural power related to race, class, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality, etc.
- 4) Develop an argument or thesis statement related to world religions and support that argument with reliable evidence.