

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 130 – SCRIPTURES OF WORLD RELIGIONS

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

The study of religions based on scriptures selected from Eastern and Western religions.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

Participatory demonstration of methods of critical inquiry into the scriptures of the world's religions. Study of religious language (myth, symbol, parable and paradox) and its psychological and metaphysical suppositions. Emphasis on "scripture" or canonical writings as basic sources for knowledge about the history, teachings and practices of major religious traditions, both Eastern and Western. While the major emphasis will usually fall on views of reality, man and values, it is expected that students will also be made aware of the sort of problems which confront the historian, the literary critic, and the social scientist (sociology/psychology) when they use such documents as data or source materials.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Define religion in light of the diverse perspectives represented in the world's religions.
- 2) Read religious language with a less parochial understanding, thus gaining deeper access to the various religious traditions of the world.
- 3) Discuss the essential and profound characteristics of the major religions.
- 4) Identify the perennial similarities between major religions by comparing their myths and symbols.
- 5) Discuss the historical evolution of some of the more profound and universal images and concepts of religious language.
- 6) Read the scriptures and supporting sacred literature of all religious traditions with an enhanced appreciation and capacity to be inspired.

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, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes (multiple choice)
- 2) Exams (essay)
- 3) Expository essays
- 4) Research papers
- 5) Critical reading journals or worksheets

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom with writing board, maps

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Multimedia presentations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments
- 2) Essays and written assignments that cover the assigned readings

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Van Voorst, Robert E. *Anthology of World Scriptures*. 9th edition. Cengage, 2016.
 - b. Fieser, James and John Powers. *Scriptures of the World's Religions*. 6th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2017
 - c. Markham, Ian. *A World Religious Reader*. 3rd edition. Blackwell, 2009.
 - d. Novak, Philip. *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions*. Harper Collins, 1995.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Define religion in light of the diverse perspectives represented in the world's religions.
- 2) Identify and explain the essential characteristics of the major religions.
- 3) Identify the perennial similarities between major religions by comparing their myths and symbols.