

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

- A. Department Information:
Division: Humanities and Social Science
Department: Philosophy/Religious Studies
Course ID: RELIG 101
Course Title: Introduction to World Religions
Units: 3
Lecture: 3 Hours
Prerequisite: None
- B. Catalog and Schedule Description:
An introduction to the major traditions of the world with an emphasis on the beliefs, practices, and histories of Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Taoism.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Create and articulate a historical, cultural, and/or intellectual matrix within which the concerns and the questions of the discipline of religious studies can be placed;
- B. Read and critically evaluate selected primary sources in religious studies (including but not limited to, sacred texts, dialogues, aphorisms, essays, sermons, theological treatises, credal formulae, novels, short stories, and non-textual primary sources such as music and visual art forms);
- C. Respond critically, analytically, and/or synthetically in writing to issues dealing with religious studies (including but not limited to the origin of religion, the function of religion, the cultural manifestations of religion, the expression of religion in literature, psychology, and the arts, and/or the relationships between and among religions);
- D. Apply the ideas and concepts in the discipline of religious studies to contemporary experience in its social, institutional, psychological, and/or political manifestations.

IV. CONTENT:

- A. Point of Departure--the study of world religions
- B. Hinduism
1. Essential Problem: Maya
 2. Essential Goal: Atman = Brahman
 3. Essential Mode of Transportation: Yoga
- C. Buddhism
1. Essential Problem: Dukkha
 2. Essential Goal: Nirvana
 3. Essential Mode of Transportation: Eight Fold Path
- D. Confucianism
1. Essential Problem: Chaos
 2. Essential Goal: Social Harmony
 3. Essential Mode of Transportation: Deliberate Tradition
- E. Taoism
1. Essential Problem: Imbalance
 2. Essential Goal: Balance—Metaphysical and Personal
 3. Essential Mode of Transportation: Wu Wei
- F. Islam
1. Essential Problem: Shirk
 2. Essential Goal: Submission to Allah
 3. Essential Mode of Transportation: Five Pillars

G. Judaism

1. Essential Problem: Broken Covenant
2. Essential Goal: Covenant
3. Essential Mode of Transportation: Hallowing of Life

H. Christianity

1. Essential Problem: Sin
2. Essential Goal: Kingdom of God
3. Essential Mode of Transportation: Modeling the Incarnation

I. Primal Religions

1. Essential Problem: There is none!
2. Essential Goal: There is none!
3. Essential Mode of Transportation: There is None!

J. Limitations of the Transformational Model

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussions (class and group)
- C. Audio-Visuals
- D. Reading of texts, both secondary and primary
- E. Writing tasks appropriate for the material
- F. Computer Tutorials (if applicable)

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading: Read the Tao Te Ching. Be able to identify the key ideas of Tao, Te, Yin, Yang, and Wu Wei. Be able to identify the cultural and religious bases the poetry of the Tao Te Ching. Be able to apply the ideas and images arising in the Tao Te Ching to aspects of your own experience.
- B. Writing, critical thinking: Compare the Tao Te Ching to the Analects of Confucius. After noting the similarities and differences, evaluate the adequacy of each approach to solving the problem of disharmony for "postmodern" America using your own experience as well as information gleaned from researching contemporary religious experience.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION:

A. Methods of evaluation will vary from instructor to instructor, but may include true-false tests, multiple choice tests, or sentence completion tests. In addition, written components such as essay tests, writing tasks (i.e. journals, summary reviews, interpretive essays, and/or term projects) will be included. Telecomputing can include downloading and uploading reading and writing tasks, on-line discussion, and computer tutorials. Grading may be comparative within a class or may be based on an absolute standard.

1. Sample Objective Test Question: The yoga that emphasizes devotion and love as the path to "God" is:
 - A. Hatha yoga
 - B. Jnana yoga
 - C. Bhakti yoga
 - D. Kundalini yoga
 - E. Raja yoga
2. Sample Objective Test Question: Describe the Five Pillars of Islam, making sure to include comparisons with at least three other religions of the world as a descriptive technique.

B. While the frequency of evaluation will depend on the type of evaluation (i.e. "objective" or

written), evaluation will take place periodically throughout the semester with enough frequency to be sufficient to measure student progress and will be sensitive to the various learning styles of students. The minimum evaluation will consist of at least two evaluative instruments (i.e., papers, projects, portfolios, or tests) chosen by the instructor of record for the class).

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT:

- A. Molloy, Michael. Experiencing the World's Religions. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 1998.
- B. Schmidt, Roger, et al. Patterns of Religion. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1999.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

Supplementary material may include handouts, primary sources, maps, study guides, computer disks, and/or software.