

REL 110
WORLD RELIGIONS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090, or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course introduces the world's major religious traditions. Topics include Primal religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Upon completion, students should be able to identify the origins, history, beliefs, and practices of the religions studied. Major topics include the role of women in the various religions, the relationship between religion and science, and the involvement of religion in world peace and in preservation of the environment. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate in writing basic understanding of world's major religions, to include origins, development, principal concepts, and key terms and figures.
- b. Define characteristic features of early religious traditions and their influence on modern religions.
- c. Identify geographic/ethnic distributions of major religions.
- d. Discuss position of major religions in contemporary societies and the ramifications of religions as political forces.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. What is religion?
 - A. Development of a definition
 - B. Brief history of the study of religion
- II. Some "primitive" and ancient religions
 - A. Religion in prehistoric and contemporary "primitive" cultures
 - B. Religions of ancient Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome
- III. Religions of India
 - A. Early Hinduism
 - B. Jainism
 - C. Early and later Buddhism

- D. Later Hinduism
- E. Sikhism

IV. Eastern Asian religions

- A. Native Chinese religion
- B. Taoism
- C. Confucianism
- D. Shinto
- E. Buddhism in Eastern Asia

V. Religions of the Near East

- A. Zoroastrianism
- B. Judaism
- C. Christianity
- D. Islam

VI. Contemporary religious movements.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

To be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.