

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

Adult Accelerated E - 2006
Room: D224
Thursdays: 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

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L 31 Resource Center
Office Hours:
T/R 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
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Comparative Studies in Religion REL 219-70 (IAI H5 904N)

I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the traditions of the major religions of the world. This analytical approach examines not only the heritage of the great religions but also their influence on contemporary life and culture (3 credit hours).

II. Required text

Course Text: *Religions of the World*
Tenth Edition
Authors: Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark R. Woodward
Publisher: Prentice Hall Press, 2007
ISBN: 0-13-224045-9

III. Mission Statement

- The mission of Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.

IV. Goal, Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

A. Goal

- To provide students with a general understanding of the various elements of the major world religions and an appreciation of their basic tenets lived in a pluralistic world.

B. Common Student Learning Objectives (CSLOs):

The following Common Student Learning objectives (adopted December 9, 2004) are addressed:

- Content Knowledge (Lifelong Learning) CK-1. Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter.
- Communication Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) CS-1. Communicate effectively in oral and written forms.
- Problem Solving Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) PS-2. Seek information and develop an in-depth knowledge base, grounded in research.
- Global Perspectives (Diversity) GP-1. Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities and cultures.

C. Course-based Student Learning Objectives (CBSLOs)

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate their mastery of the following learning outcomes, addressing the following CLSOs (in parentheses):

- CBSLO-1. Students will be able to describe ritual practices and sacred texts of the major world religions. (CK-1, CS 1, PS-2, and GP-1).
- CBSLO-2. Students will be able to articulate the historical development of the major world religions. (CK-1, CS-1, and GP-1).

- CBSLO-3. Students will attain an appreciation of the cultures, philosophies and the founders that produced the major world religions. (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2, GP-1).
- CBSLO-4. Students will be able to define the religious terms used to describe sacred texts, rituals, and religious experiences in the various world religions. (CK-1, CS-1).
- CBSLO-5. Students will be able to explain in-depth one of the world religions. (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2, GP-1).
- CBSLO-6. Students will recognize and be able to evaluate the differences and similarities of the world religions lived in a pluralistic society. (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2, GP-1).

V. Teaching methods

- Lecture
- Class discussion
- Group activities and presentations

VI. Course requirements

A. Attendance Policy

- Regular attendance is required. Students are to notify the instructor via email regarding an absence and are personally responsible for getting class notes from another student. All unexcused absences will result in a reduction of 1 point.

B. Reading assignments

- Reading assignments for each session are included under VIII: Topical Course Outline

C. Written assignments

- A reflection paper on the primary differences and similarities among the major world religions and their influences on contemporary life and culture (4-5 pages). This assignment is 20 points of the final exam and is due on the day students take the final exam for this course. (CBSLO 5 and 6).
- A research paper - Students will choose one of the following religions and prepare a presentation for the last day of class: Native American Religions, African Religions, Jainism, Sikhism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, or Baha'i. An outline of the presentation and organized notes are to be submitted at the end of the presentation. This is worth 36 points. (CBSLO 1-6)

D. Examinations

- There will be mid-term and final exams (CBSLO 1-6). These will be a combination of objective and essay questions.

E. Cell Phone Policy

- All cell phones are to be turned off before entering the classroom. If a cell phone rings during class the student is to leave the classroom and not return. An unexcused absence will result.
- If there is a valid reason for a cell phone to be on vibrate (it may not ring), please notify me before class and if necessary you may leave the room to answer a call and then return to class.

F. Class Participation

- Students are expected to actively listen in class and offer appropriate comments to the class discussion.
- Questions pertinent to the course material are encouraged.

VII. Means of Evaluation of Outcomes. Final grades will be based on assignments, class participation and attendance, and exams and weighted as follows:

- Exams: mid-term (60 points) final exam (80 points – this includes the reflection paper)
- Research presentation (36 points)
- Class participation (24 points)
 - The total number of points is 200

Grade	Points
A	180 - 200
B	160 - 179
C	140 - 159
D	120 - 139
E	0 - 119

- **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as follows: "The deliberate and knowing presentation of another person's original ideas or creative expressions as one's own. Generally, plagiarism is immoral but not illegal. If the expression's creator gives unrestricted permission for its use and the user claims the expression as original, the user commits plagiarism but does not violate copyright laws. If the original expression is copied without permission, the plagiarist may violate copyright laws, even if credit goes to the creator. And if the plagiarism results in material gain, it may be deemed a passing-off activity that violates the Lanham Act." Black's Law Dictionary, 8th ed. (2004), p. 1187. [The Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C., is the federal law regulating trademarks.] Also useful to establish guidelines for delineating plagiarism is Diana Hacker's definition: "Three different acts are considered plagiarism: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words." (*A Writer's Reference*, by Diana Hacker, Bedford St. Martin's Press, 2003, page 331.) Some instances of plagiarism may, in fact, be violations of copyright law and subject to prosecution. The SCI Student Handbook lists plagiarism as a serious breach of conduct standards and will result in disciplinary action.
 - **Plagiarism Policy** If there is sufficient evidence that a student's paper was intentionally plagiarized the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

VIII. Topical Course Outline and Calendar

- August 24
 - Preparation for this class: read text pp. 1-28
 - Introduction Overview
 - A definition of Religion
 - The Universality of Religion
 - Theories of the Origin of Religions
 - Types of Religions
 - Basic Religions: Characteristics of Basic Religions
 - Sources of Information Concerning Basic Religions
 - Prehistoric Beginnings of Basic Religions
 - Common Features of Basic Religions
 - Assignment
 - Read text pp. 70-111 (Hinduism)
- August 31
 - Religions Originating in India: Hinduism
 - The Origins of Hinduism
 - The Vedic Era
 - Postclassical Hinduism
 - Muslim Influences in India
 - Modern Hinduism
 - Hindu Holy Days
 - Hinduism Today
 - Assignment
 - Read text pp. 123-150 (Buddhism)

- September 7
 - Religions Originating in India: Buddhism
 - The Life of Gautama
 - The Teachings of the Buddha
 - The Development of Buddhism
 - Theravada Buddhism
 - Mahayana Buddhism
 - Buddhist Festivals and Holy Days
 - Buddhism Today
 - Assignment
 - Read text pp. 164-196 (Chinese Religions)
 - Study for mid-term exam

- September 14
 - Religions Originating in China
 - Basic Chinese Religious Concepts
 - Taoism
 - Confucianism
 - Traditional Chinese Holidays
 - Taoism and Confucianism Today
 - Mid-term Exam
 - Assignment
 - Read text pp. 233-269 (Judaism)

- September 21
 - Religions Originating in the Middle East: Judaism
 - Biblical Patriarchs
 - Exodus
 - Sinai and the law
 - Post-Sinai Religious Institutions
 - Religion in the Time of the Hebrew Monarchy
 - Exile and Return
 - Diaspora
 - Medieval Judaism
 - Judaism and the Modern World
 - Responses to Modernity
 - Jewish Festivals and Holy Days
 - Judaism Today
 - Assignment
 - Read text pp. 270-319 (Christianity)

- September 28
 - Religions Originating in the Middle East: Christianity
 - The World of the First Century C.E.
 - The Life and Teachings of Jesus
 - Early Christianity
 - Growth of the Church of Rome
 - Medieval Christianity
 - The Protestant Reformation
 - Modern Christianity
 - Modern Movements
 - The Christian Calendar and Holy Days
 - Christianity Today
 - Assignment

- Read text pp. 320-355 (Islam)
- October 5
 - Religions Originating in the Middle East: Islam
 - Pre-Islamic Arab Religion
 - The Life of Muhammad
 - The Qur'an
 - Religious Institutions
 - The Spread of Islam
 - The Caliphate
 - Variations Within Islam
 - Islam in the Modern World
 - Muslim Calendar and Holy Days
 - Islam Today
 - Assignment
 - Complete your class presentation on one of the world religions
 - Study for the final exam
- October 12
 - Class presentations
 - Final Exam

IX. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor as early as possible.

X. Assessment

- Goals, objectives, and learning outcomes that will be assessed in the class are stated in this syllabus in Sections IV and VI. The instructor will use Classroom Assessment Techniques as deemed necessary in order to provide continuous improvement of instruction. Students are required to take part in all assessment measures.

XI. Illinois Articulation Initiative

- REL 219 has been approved by the Illinois Articulation Initiative as meeting the criteria stipulated for iTransfer Course H5 904N (as follows).
- H5 904N: Comparative Religions (3 semester credits)
 - An introductory survey of selected teachings, practices, and institutions of major Eastern and Western religions. May include the role of history, appreciation for forms of expression; and criticism of their origins, rituals, and forms of religious knowledge and destiny.