

Syllabus
PHIL/RELS 2610
Comparative Religions
2024

Committee Members:

Steven Reiter, Central Community College
Jan McCarthy, Metropolitan Community College
Donald Kurre, Mid-Plains Community College
N/A, Northeast Community College
Leo Lacano, Southeast Community College
Colin Croft, Western Nebraska Community College
N/A, Little Priest Tribal College
N/A, Nebraska Indian Community College

Facilitator: Jan McCarthy

The Institution agrees to the contents in this syllabus including course prefix, number, course description and other contents of this syllabus.

 Chief Academic Officer, Central Community College	06/03/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Little Priest Tribal College	06/03/2024	Not Offered
 Chief Academic Officer, Metropolitan Community College	06/07/2024	Decline
 Chief Academic Officer, Mid-Plains Community College	06/03/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Nebraska Indian Community College	06/03/2024	Not Offered
 Chief Academic Officer, Northeast Community College	06/03/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Southeast Community College	06/03/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Western Nebraska Community College	06/03/2024	Adopt

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHIL 2610 OR RELS 2610

Comparative Religions

Prerequisite: Placement scores equivalent to English 1010

This course will offer a cross-cultural introduction to the world's major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems through a comparison of historical origins, rituals, beliefs, practices, worldviews, original religious texts, and other important sources. Interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion and various approaches to the study of religious systems.

3.0 semester credit hours/4.5 quarter credit hours/45 contact hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

Course will:

1. Explore the world's diverse religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
2. Survey sacred texts and sources relevant to a variety of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
3. Examine works of recognized authorities relevant to a variety of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
4. Critically analyze questions raised by readings and discussion.
5. Use appropriate terminology to discuss and cite source material to support critical opinions about assigned work.
6. Distinguish religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems as they apply to diverse backgrounds and cultures.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

1. Distinguish the major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems of the world and the basic tenets of each.
2. Examine each tradition or faith system's origins, texts/sources, different worldviews, and cultural expressions.
3. Discuss religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems in a mature manner.
4. Analyze course materials that involve exposure to original texts or cultural influences of differing religions.

5. Be able to support critical opinions about assigned work using discipline specific terminology and citing source material.
6. Use appropriate research and writing conventions.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE
(suggested)

1. Study and methods of religion/faith systems as an academic discipline
2. Indigenous religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
3. Dharmic religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
4. East Asian religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
5. Abrahamic religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
6. Alternate religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
(suggested texts)

1. Suggested Texts (latest edition of those listed below)

- a. The Major Religions – Patrick T. Burke
- b. Exploring the World’s Religions – Michael Molloy
- c. Religions of the World – Lewis M. Hopfe
- d. The World’s Religions – Huston Smith
- e. Living Religions – Mary Pat Fisher
- f. Invitation to World Religions – Jeffery Brodd, Layne Little, et al.
- g. Revealing World Religions – Cynthia Eller
- h. God is not One – Stephen Prothero
- i. Religion Matters: An Introduction to the World’s Religions 2nd Ed. –
Stephen Prothero

- j. World Religions: The Spiritual Searching – Jody Ondich, Open source resource.
 - k. The World’s Religions: Worldviews and Contemporary Issues, William A. Young, Prentice Hall
2. Supplemental hand-outs, audio/video materials and other resources supplied by the instructor. Original texts relevant for religions of the world and other works as assigned by the instructor.
 3. Outside reading/research as determined by the instructor.

VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION

Instructors should make use of varied pedagogical techniques including, but not limited to, several of the following: lectures, discussions groups, collaborative projects, research, peer response, assigned writing, conferences, computer-assisted instruction, interactive/creative methods, multimedia, guest speakers, and field trips.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

As determined by the instructor, course grades will be based on attendance, class and group participation, daily work, exams, quizzes, presentations, projects, papers and/or a portfolio. The instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

(To be used at the discretion of each community college as deemed necessary)