



RELS-112 – World Religions and Spiritual Traditions

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022

Course Outline Review Date: 2026-04-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course examines the prominent religious and spiritual traditions of the World. These include Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Primal (or Indigenous) Religions. Other ancient religions, and new religious movements, will also be discussed. Each tradition is explored in terms of origin and development (key figures, events, and evolution), worldview (divine reality, the problem and solution for human beings, life beyond death, etc.), ethical teachings, mystical approaches, and sacred writings, rituals and symbols. Meta-issues, such as secularization and religious pluralism, will also be examined. Students will gain knowledge and appreciation of each tradition, and more broadly, of religiosity and spirituality in general.

Program Information:

This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Humanities

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity

Hours

Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

None

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Philip Novak, *The World's Wisdom*, New York: Harper One, 1995.

Denise L. Carmody & T.L. Brink. *Ways to the Center. An Introduction to World Religions*. 6th

Ed. Wadsworth, 2006.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- identify the basic components of religious study: the sacred, myths, beliefs, ethics, community, rituals, symbols, and religious feelings
 - compare various theories regarding the origin and nature of religion in human life
 - discuss each religious tradition in terms of its origin, evolution and worldview
 - compare each religion on the distinct aspects of religious study
 - explore modern challenges to religion, such as science, secularization, and religious pluralism
 - write essays on central topics in religious study
-

Course Topics:

- Introduction
- Primal (Indigenous) Traditions
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Jainism
- Chinese Traditions: Taoism and Confucianism
- Zoroastrianism and/or Greek Religion
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Modern Times: Secularization and New Religious Movements
- Conclusions

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
------------------------	-------------------------

Exams (2) (Both 30%)	60%
Essays (2) (Short: 10%; Long 30%)	40%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Pass requirements: None

Evaluation Notes: A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

Please see the instructor’s syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and use of electronic aids.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete

material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.