



## RELS-112 – World Religions and Spiritual Traditions

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2026

Course Outline Review Date: 2031-04-01

**Program Area:** Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### Description:

This course provides a comparative introduction to the world's major religious and spiritual traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and various Indigenous Peoples' religions. Students explore each tradition's historical development, core beliefs, ethical teachings, and ritual practices, as well as broader themes such as secularization, globalization, and religious pluralism. Emphasis is placed on developing an informed and appreciative understanding of the diversity of global religiosity and spirituality in both historical and contemporary contexts.

### 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

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Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

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**Course Requisites:**

None

**Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes**

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to Policy [2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) or contact an education advisor for more information.

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**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.

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**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:

Novak, P. (1995). *The world's wisdom*. HarperOne.

Van Voorst, R. E. (2020). *World religions: An introduction to world religions* (4th ed.). Cengage.

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.

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## Learning Outcomes:

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

- explain the fundamental components of religious study, including the sacred, myths, rituals, and symbols;
  - evaluate major theoretical frameworks concerning the origin and function of religion;
  - analyze the development and core teachings of major religions;
  - assess contemporary challenges to religious traditions, including secularization and religious pluralism; and
  - formulate well-reasoned academic arguments on central themes in religious studies.
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## Course Topics:

- Introduction to Religious Studies
- Indigenous People's Religious Traditions
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Jainism
- Chinese Traditions: Taoism and Confucianism
- Zoroastrianism
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Modern Times: Challenges to Religion and Spirituality
- Conclusions

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

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## Evaluation and Assessments

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

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Attendance and Participation	10%
Short Assignments	10%
Essays	30%
Midterm Exam	25%

Final Exam	25%
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

**No pass requirements available.**

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

### 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 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

### 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.

