

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE SYLLABUS

REL 201 COMPARATIVE WORLD RELIGIONS/GE

Credit Hours: 3 Lec 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the historical origins and settings, central doctrines and practices, and cultural impact and significance of the major living religions. Primary topics include, but not limited to: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 articulate the broad features of religious systems as well as the methodological principles necessary to study religion as a cultural and historical phenomenon.
- 1.2 compare and contrast the broad worldview claims made by the major religious systems as well as how these claims result in and are supported by acts of religious expression (e.g., art, music, ritual, myth, architecture, etc.)
- 1.3 describe how the major religious systems originated and developed historically, drawing attention to the significant impact these systems have had on human civilization.
- 1.4 read some of the sacred literature associated with the major world religions with attention to employing proper exegetical and hermeneutical principles when interpreting and analyzing those texts.
- 1.5 demonstrate the value of a systematic study of religion for purposes of understanding and interpreting the institutions, values, conflicts, and cultures of the modern world.

2. OUTCOMES

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

- 2.1 recognize and explain conventional terminology and vocabulary used within the discipline (e.g., myth, cultic practice, holiness, piety, etc.)
- 2.2 interpret the meaning of sacred texts using principles of scholarly exegesis and literary analysis
- 2.3 explain the difference between substantive vs. functional definitions of religion
- 2.4 articulate the basic categories of phenomena that constitute religious systems (e.g., doctrinal, ethical, social, etc.) and explain the unique ways into which the various religions contain elements that exemplify those categories
- 2.5 compare and contrast the broad worldview and doctrinal claims of the major religions on the nature of ultimate reality, the human condition, and the purpose of human existence
- 2.6 construct a historical timeline of the major religious figures, movements, and schisms, demonstrating further the lasting legacy these persons and events have had on the development and trajectory both of those systems and on the broader cultures in which they are embedded.
- 2.7 identify distinctive ways in which practitioners of religion order their lives around and express devotion through a variety of mediums and practices (e.g., ritual, art, music, architecture, dance, creeds, holidays, etc.)
- 2.8 draw connections between the historical impact of religion and how this impact has served to sculpt the values, laws, politics, economics, and philosophies of the modern world

3. AWC GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) CATEGORY & CRITERIA
ARTS & HUMANITIES

- The analysis, interpretation, and/or creation of cultural, artistic, and/or intellectual artifacts
- The importance of global awareness, intercultural knowledge, and intellectual humility, objectivity, and/or curiosity, by situating cultural, artistic, and/or intellectual artifacts in a diverse range of cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts
- The exploration of ideological, philosophical, existential, and/or moral questions with the possibility of developing informed civic and ethical identities through study and/or creative self-expression
- The understanding of current global challenges (environmental, social justice, etc.), including exploration of strategies for positive change

4. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION
 - 4.1 Class discussions
 - 4.2 Lecture
 - 4.3 Multimedia
 - 4.4 Handouts
 - 4.5 Text analysis
5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES
 - 5.1 Note taking
 - 5.2 Classroom discussions
 - 5.3 Written summaries on assigned readings
 - 5.4 Presentations
6. EVALUATION
 - 6.1 Quizzes & Exams
 - 6.2 Written Assignments
 - 6.3 Oral Presentations
 - 6.4 Participation
7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
 - 7.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
 - 7.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
 - 7.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
 - 7.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
 - 7.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
 - 7.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester. Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid. *For online classes, student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
 - 7.6.1 Submitting an academic assignment
 - 7.6.2 Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
 - 7.6.3 Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
 - 7.6.4 Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
 - 7.6.5 Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course