

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: HUMAN 13      Title: INTRO TO RELIGIOUS STUDY  
Full Title: Introduction to Religious Studies  
Last Reviewed: 4/23/2007

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	17.5	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable  
Grading: Grade or P/NP  
Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP  
Also Listed As:  
Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**  
This course introduces the study of religion as a critical, academic discipline. It will explore the meaning, origins and function of religion, and illustrate these by drawing on myths, rituals, symbols and beliefs from cultures all over the globe and through human history. The course will survey the evolution and content of various theories and methods in the study of religion, as well as career opportunities in the field.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: This course introduces the study of religion as a critical, academic discipline; the meaning, origins and function of religion illustrated by myths, rituals, symbols and beliefs from cultures all over the globe and through human history; and theories and methods in the study of religion, as well as career opportunities in the field. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit:

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 2007	Fall 2010
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities	Fall 2007	Fall 2010
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 2007	Fall 2010
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>		Effective:	Inactive:	
<b>UC Transfer:</b>		Effective:	Inactive:	

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

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

1. Distinguish among differing kinds of approaches to the study of religion
2. Identify the components of religious expression
3. Evaluate religious claims and explanations
4. Analyze the usefulness of definitions of religion
5. Recognize large-scale patterns in religious belief and practice
6. Organize various religions into taxonomies
7. Support or refute descriptions of religion with evidence drawn from a wide diversity of traditions
8. Explain religious studies as a secular as well as a sacred enterprise
9. Describe the human diversity reflected in religious phenomena, including expressions and contributions by people ancient and modern, Western and non-Western, literate and oral, and the place and perspectives of women

### **Topics and Scope:**

Topics will include but not be limited to:

1. The Religious Studies Major as a Career Choice
2. Definitions of Religion
3. Taxonomy of Religions
4. Origins & History of Religion

5. History of the Study of Religion
6. Elements of Religion
  - a. Myth
  - b. Ritual
  - c. Symbolism
  - d. Mystical Experience
  - e. Scripture: Production, Transmission and Canonization of Sacred Text
  - f. Theology and Creed
  - g. Apologetics
7. Methodological Approaches to the Study of Religion
8. Distinctions between Official and Popular Religion
9. The Role, Contributions and Perspectives of Women
10. Ethnicity, Race, Class and Sexual Orientation in Religion
11. Examples Drawn from Specific Religious Traditions, for example:
  - a. Indigenous Native American, African, Oceanic, Australian
  - b. Ancient Canaanite, Babylonian, Sumerian, Greek, Roman, Scandanavian
  - c. Santeria, Vodou, Rastafarian
  - d. Hindu, Buddhist, Jainist, Bahai, Sikh
  - e. Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, Muslim
12. Relationship of Religion to Politics

### **Assignment:**

1. Weekly reading assignments of between 20-50 pages
2. Objective exams
3. Essay exams
4. A Research Paper of 5-7 pages
5. Optional field trips
6. In-class exercises
7. In-class presentations
8. Discussions and/or debates
9. Written homework

### **Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Written homework, One 5-7 page research paper
---

Writing 40 - 75%
---------------------

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Exercises in taxonomy and definition composing
--

Problem solving 5 - 15%
----------------------------

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Optional quizzes, exams, midterm and/or final.

Exams  
15 - 45%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Optional field trips, class presentations on research and/or field trip

Other Category  
5 - 20%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Chryssides, George D. The Study of Religion: An Introduction to Key Ideas and Methods. Continuum, 2004.

Kessler, Gary E. Studying Religion: An Introduction Through Cases. McGraw-Hill, 2003

Boyer, Pascal. Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought. Basic Books, 2001.