

**RELS 32 Course Outline as of Summer 2022****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: RELS 32            Title: RELIGION IN AMERICA  
 Full Title: Religion in America  
 Last Reviewed: 10/8/2018

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	6	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: HUMAN 10.4

**Catalog Description:**

This course will explore and analyze the history of and interaction among diverse ethnic and cultural groups in the shaping of American religious discourse and institutions and the encounter between secular and religious forces. It will survey the many multi-cultural personalities, ideas, and movements of the past 400 years.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: This course will explore and analyze the history of and interaction among diverse ethnic and cultural groups in the shaping of American religious discourse and institutions and the encounter between secular and religious forces. It will survey the many multi-cultural personalities, ideas, and movements of the past 400 years. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

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

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

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	E	Humanities	Fall 1996	
	G	American Cultures/Ethnic Studies		
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1997	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1997	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	<b>Effective:</b>	Fall 1996	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	<b>Effective:</b>	Fall 1996	<b>Inactive:</b>

### **CID:**

### **Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify and analyze the spectrum of American religious culture in its historical development.
2. Compare and contrast the diverse cultural and ethnic roots of religious expression in America.
3. Describe and give examples of the historical, social, and psychological processes that involved in the creation of new religions.

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Track and analyze the impact of colonization on both European and indigenous peoples' religious expressions.
2. Describe and distinguish the impact of the institution of slavery on both the Europeans and Africans in America and on their religious expressions and political and cultural development.
3. Describe and appraise the impact of industrialization and immigration in non-Anglo Europeans and their religious expressions.
4. Distinguish and compare the leading and intellectual and scientific claims behind emerging spiritual expression.
5. Explain and appraise the interaction between religious communities and secular political culture in America.

6. Identify and evaluate the major personalities and events which shaped American religious discourse.
7. Examine and appraise the effect of religious enthusiasm in the shaping of such American political discourse and institutions as abortion, Suffrage, Prohibition, Civil Rights, evolution, Scientific Creationism, Intelligent Design, Same-Sex Marriage etc.
8. Probe the variety and rivalry of religious denominations and the restless debates within denominations which led to schism and proliferation in American culture.
9. Investigate and evaluate the emergence of new religions and new religious expression in American society.
10. List examples of religious institutions and styles of expression from each major historical source of origin and their cognate traditions.

### **Topics and Scope:**

- I. Native American Religious Expression
  - A. Rituals
  - B. Myths
  - C. Religious Concepts
  - D. Ecological Sustainability
- II. Puritanism and Early Colonists
- III. The Impact of Colonization on the Religious Expressions of Europeans and Indigenous Peoples
- IV. Protestant Denominations such as:
  - A. Methodist
  - B. Baptist
  - C. Presbyterian
  - D. Congregationalist
  - E. Episcopalian
- V. Quakers and Mennonites
- VI. Deism and the First Amendment
  - A. Jefferson
  - B. Paine
  - C. Franklin
- VII. Slavery and African American Religions such as:
  - A. African-Christian Syncretism
  - B. African American Christianity
  - C. Nation of Islam
- VIII. Judaism in the United States
  - A. The impact of immigration
  - B. The Reform movement
  - C. Orthodox and Conservative
  - D. Reconstructionism and Zionism
- IX. Catholicism in the United States
  - A. Americanism
  - B. Nativism & "Know Nothings"
  - C. The Catholic Worker
- X. Apocalypticism and New American Religions
  - A. The Mormons
  - B. Christian Science

- C. The Millerite Craze
- D. Jehovah's Witnesses
- E. Seventh-Day Adventists
- F. Mesmerism
- G. Scientology
- XI. Pentecostal, Holiness Movements, Evangelism and Revivalism
- XII. Politics, Religion, and Social Change
- XIII. Humanism & Free Thought
- XIV. World Religions in the United States
  - A. Buddhism
  - B. Islam
  - C. Hinduism
  - D. Others
- XV. American Civil Religion

**Assignment:**

1. Weekly reading assignments of between 25-50 pages
2. Multiple choice and/or essay exams (2 - 5)
3. An argumentative or expository term paper of minimum of 1000 words
4. Quizzes of objective or short written answer format (4 - 10)
5. Optional field trips, interviews, debates and oral presentations

**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.

Reading reports and essays	Writing 30 - 50%
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**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None	Problem solving 0 - 0%
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**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%
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**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, true/false, matching items, completion, essay exams, text analysis	Exams 40 - 70%
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**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Classroom participation, optional: oral presentations, reports on interviews, museum visits, or field trips

Other Category  
0 - 10%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Religion In America. 9th ed. Corrigan, John and Hudson, Winthrop. Routledge. 2018

America's Four Gods: What We Say About God and What That Says About Us. Froese, Paul and Bader, Christopher. Oxford University Press. 2015

Religion in American Life: A Short History. 2nd ed. Butler, Jon and Wacker, Grant and Balmer, Randall. Oxford University Press. 2011 (classic)

Revive Us Again: The Reawakening Of American Fundamentalism. Carpenter, Joel. Oxford University Press. 1999 (classic)