

RELS 3 Course Outline as of Summer 2022**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: RELS 3 Title: HISTORY OF GOD

Full Title: History of God

Last Reviewed: 1/28/2019

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 10.3

Catalog Description:

The origins and evolution of monotheism from ancient Egypt and Canaan, through ancient Israel and its variations in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:**

Course Completion of RELS 1 and Course Completion of ENGL 1A

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

Description: The origins and evolution of monotheism from ancient Egypt and Canaan, through ancient Israel and its variations in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Course Completion of RELS 1 and Course Completion of ENGL 1A

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

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

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities		Fall 1983	
CSU GE:	Transfer Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities		Fall 1983	
IGETC:	Transfer Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities		Fall 1981	
CSU Transfer:	Transferable		Effective:	Fall 1983	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable		Effective:	Fall 1983	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Major Applicable Course

Approval and Dates

Version:	08	Course Created/Approved:	8/1/1981
Version Created:	12/13/2021	Course Last Modified:	7/18/2023
Submitter:	Eric Thompson	Course last full review:	1/28/2019
Version Status:	Approved (Changed Course)	Prereq Created/Approved:	1/28/2019
Version Status Date:	1/24/2022	Semester Last Taught:	Spring 2023
Version Term Effective:	Summer 2022	Term Inactive:	

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Explain texts of Jewish, Christian and Islamic scripture in terms of their historical and social context, and relationship with the indigenous religions of the Ancient Near East.
2. Use the vocabulary of critical scholarship to evaluate the monotheistic religions' claims, rituals and narratives.
3. Demonstrate a sensitive and detailed understanding of the diversity within and among the monotheistic religious traditions.

Objectives:

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

1. Discover and describe the complex evolution of Judaism and Islam and their interaction with Christianity.
2. Discover and describe the internecine conflicts and variations in the histories of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
3. Identify sources for specific religious concepts, stories and rituals in the monotheistic religions in Egyptian, Canaanite, Mesopotamian, Hittite, and Iranian indigenous religions.
4. Identify seminal thinkers within the context of the course and the unique characteristics of their thought within the historic circumstances and literary understandings of their own time.
5. Analyze and evaluate persistent religious themes and controversies within rival hermeneutics of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

6. Trace the historic and religious sources of contemporary values and belief systems.

Topics and Scope:

- I. The Ancient Near Eastern Origins of "Western" or "Monotheistic" Religions
 - A. Egyptian "monotheism" under Akhenaten
 - B. The Divine Council of the autochthonous Canaanites
- II. The Evolution and Diversity of Pre-Exilic Israelite Religion
 - A. Yahwistic monolatry
 - B. Polytheism and syncretism in Biblical Israel
- III. The Emergence of Judaism After the Exile
 - A. The evolution of rabbinic Judaism: temple to Torah
 - B. Hellenistic Judaism: allegorizing the God of Torah
 - C. Other sects and movements such as the Essenes, apocalyptic
 - D. The development of the sacred texts: Tanak, Mishnah, Talmuds and Midrashim
- IV. The Origins and Early Development of Christianity
 - A. The diversity of early Jesus movements
 - B. Orthodoxy and heresy: for example, Gnosticism, Arianism, Ebionitism, Modalism
 - C. Rival Jewish and Christian hermeneutics
 - D. Christian apologetics and polemics
 - E. The triumph of orthodoxy under Constantine and his successors
 - F. The Ecumenical Councils: the Trinity and Christology
 - G. The establishment of the papacy and East-West conflict
- V. The Origins and Early Development of Islam
 - A. The Arabian context
 - B. Muhammad and the Quran, thoroughgoing monotheism
 - C. The evolution of Muhammad's prophetic career: Mecca to Medina and back
 - D. The Rashidun: first four Caliphs and success of Islam's conquest
 - E. The Hadith: the evolution of tradition and Muslim practice
 - F. The Sufis and the relationship between mysticism and orthodoxy
 - G. The House of Islam as empire: the sharia, education, science and culture
 - H. The dhimmis: Jews and Christians under Islam
- VI. The Middle Ages: Interaction and Conflict
 - A. The Crusades
 - B. The Inquisition
 - C. The God of the philosophers: scholasticism and the sharing of scholarship in Maimonides, Ibn Rushd and Thomas
 - D. Theological interaction with the Renaissance
- VII. The Protestant Reformation
- VIII. The Enlightenment: Science and Historical-Critical Biblical Scholarship
 - A. The trial of Galileo
 - B. The excommunication of Spinoza
- IX. Modernity and the Rise of Fundamentalisms and Ultra-Orthodoxy
- X. Contemporary Issues such as Ecology, Economic Policy, and Social Justice

Assignment:

1. Weekly reading assignments of between 20 and 50 pages
2. Exams (2 - 5)
3. Quizzes (0 - 10)
4. One to three essays or response papers of 500-1000 words
5. A research paper of 1500-2000 words

6. Final exam (objective, essay, or a combination)
7. Optional: oral presentations, reports on interviews, museum visits, or field trips

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.

1-3 papers: essays, response papers, or textual analysis

Writing
30 - 60%

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

None

Problem solving
0 - 0%

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.

Quizzes and exams, multiple choice, true/false, matching items, completion, essay exams, text analysis. Final exam (objective, essay or a combination)

Exams
25 - 50%

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
10 - 20%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha. 5th ed. 2018

God: A Human History. Aslan, Reza. Penguin Random House. 2017

Big Gods: How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict. Norenzayan, Ara. Princeton University Press. 2015

The Evolution of God. Wright, Robert. Back Bay Books. 2009 (classic)

Al-Qur'an: A Contemporary Translation. Ali, Ahmed. Princeton University Press. 2001 (classic)

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: The Classical Texts and Their Interpretation (3 volumes). Peters, F.E. Princeton University Press. 1990 (classic)

OTHER REQUIRED ELEMENTS

STUDENT PREPARATION

Matric Assessment Required:	E	Requires English Assessment
Prerequisites-generate description:	NP	No Prerequisite
Advisories-generate description:	A	Auto-Generated Text
Prereq-provisional:	N	NO
Prereq/coreq-registration check:	N	No Prerequisite Rules Exist
Requires instructor signature:	N	Instructor's Signature Not Required

BASIC INFORMATION, HOURS/UNITS & REPEATABILITY

Method of instruction:	02	Lecture
	71	Internet-Based, Simultaneous Interaction
	72	Internet-Based, Delayed Interaction
Area department:	HUMAN	Humanities and Religion
Division:	71	Language Arts & Academic Foundations
Special topic course:	N	Not a Special Topic Course
Program status:	1	Major Applicable Course
Repeatability:	00	Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Repeat group id:		

SCHEDULING

Audit allowed:	N	Not Auditable
Open entry/exit:	N	Not Open Entry/Open Exit
Credit by exam:	N	Credit by examination not allowed
Budget code: Program:	0000	Unrestricted
Budget code: Activity:	4905	Humanities & Fine Arts

OTHER CODES

Discipline:	Humanities OR Religious Studies	
Basic skills:	N	Not a Basic Skills Course
Level below transfer:	Y	Not Applicable
CVU/CVC status:	Y	Distance Ed, Not CVU/CVC Developed
Distance Ed Approved:	Y	Either online or hybrid, as determined by instructor
Emergency Distance Ed Approved:	Y	Fully Online Partially Online Online with flexible in-person activities
Credit for Prior Learning:	N	Agency Exam
	N	CBE
	N	Industry Credentials
	N	Portfolio
Non-credit category:	Y	Not Applicable, Credit Course
Classification:	Y	Liberal Arts and Sciences Courses
SAM classification:	E	Non-Occupational
TOP code:	1510.00	Religious Studies
Work-based learning:	N	Does Not Include Work-Based Learning

DSPS course:

N

Not a DSPS Course

In-service:

N

Not an in-Service Course