

RELS 2 Course Outline as of Summer 2022**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: RELS 2 Title: WORLD RELIGIONS

Full Title: World Religions

Last Reviewed: 1/27/2025

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: PHIL 8

Catalog Description:

Comparative study of the doctrines, beliefs, historical development, and practices of the major religions of the world.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

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

Description: Comparative study of the doctrines, beliefs, historical development, and practices of the major religions of the world. (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:

AS Degree:	Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 2025	
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy		
	L3	Arts and Humanities		
CSU GE:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	Fall 2025
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy		
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1981	

IGETC:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1981	

CSU Transfer: Transferable Effective: Fall 1981 Inactive:

UC Transfer: Transferable Effective: Fall 1981 Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Both Certificate and Major Applicable

Approval and Dates

Version:	09	Course Created/Approved:	8/1/1981
Version Created:	1/26/2022	Course Last Modified:	8/16/2025
Submitter:	Eric Thompson	Course last full review:	1/27/2025
Version Status:	Approved (Changed Course)	Prereq Created/Approved:	1/27/2025
Version Status Date:	2/7/2022	Semester Last Taught:	Summer 2025
Version Term Effective:	Summer 2022	Term Inactive:	Fall 2025

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Identify major tenets of the world's major religions.
2. Critically analyze the primary doctrines of the major world religions.
3. Articulate the diversity of religious practices throughout the world.

Objectives:

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

1. Analyze and evaluate the main doctrines of the major world religions.
2. Compare and contrast the differing categories of religious expression.
3. Describe the tenets, cultural setting, historical development and global spread of each of the religions covered.

Topics and Scope:

Topics include:

- I. The major world religions include, but are not necessarily limited to, Hinduism, Buddhism, the Chinese Traditions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- II. Key concepts used in the study of world religions include, but are not limited to, ultimate reality, theology, cosmology, afterlife, monotheism vs. polytheism, morality, history, rituals, scripture.
- III. The tenets, cultural setting, and historical development of the world's religions include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Hinduism (Bhagavad Gita, Trimurti & Devi, avatars & numerous deities, Brahman-Atman, maya, karma, samsara, caste system, four stages of life, yoga paths)
 - B. Buddhism (life of Buddha, relation to Hinduism, Triple Treasure, Four Truths, Eightfold Path, Paramitas, Pali Canon, nirvana, bodhisattva, Theravada vs. Mahayana, zen, Tibetan Vajrayana; primacy of meditation practice and mind training)
 - C. Chinese Traditions (Confucian ideology, Taoist philosophy & the legend of Laozi, yin-yang-5-phases correlative cosmology, the folk tradition's pantheon of popular deities, ghosts, & ancestors; Chinese transformation of Buddhism)
 - D. Judaism (creation, Patriarchs, Prophets, Exodus, Diaspora, relation to Christianity, Zionism, Orthodox, Reform & Conservative branches, Holocaust)
 - E. Christianity (life of Jesus, relation to Judaism, resurrection, disciples, early Christians, incarnation, original sin, Trinity last judgment, Roman Catholicism vs. Protestantism vs. Eastern Orthodoxy)
 - F. Islam (life of Muhammad, Five Pillars, Sunnis vs. Shi'ites, Sufism, jihad, relation to Christianity & Judaism, fundamentalist political movements)

Assignment:

May include any/all of the following:

1. Readings from course text and/or supplementary materials.
2. Group discussion of specific issues raised in readings or lecture.
3. Short essays (500-1000 words each) comparing and contrasting various aspects of the major religions.
4. Research project and written essay (1250-2500 words each) defending a specific position on a comparative issue.
5. Quizzes (multiple choice and/or short answer) on assigned readings.
6. Midterm examinations including essay, short answer, and multiple choice sections.
7. Final examination including essay, short answer, and multiple choice sections.

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, Term papers

Writing 45 - 65%

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.

Multiple choice, Essay exams, short answer quizzes

Exams
25 - 45%

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

Class participation

Other Category
10 - 20%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Invitation to World Religions (2nd). Brodd, Jeffrey and Little, Layne and Nystrom, Brad. Oxford University Press: 2015

A Concise Introduction to World Religions (3rd). Edited by Oxtoby, Willard G. and Amore, Roy C. and Hyssain, Amir. Oxford University Press: 2015

Religions of the World (13th). Hopfe, Lewis M. and Hendrickson, Brett R. Pearson: 2015

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	Both Certificate and Major Applicable
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:	Philosophy 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