

RELS 1 Course Outline as of Fall 2013

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: RELS 1

Title: INTRO TO RELIGIOUS STUDY

Full Title: Introduction to Religious Studies

Last Reviewed: 3/11/2019

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:

**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. 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 throughout human history. The course will survey the evolution of various 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: 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>			Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities		Spring 2010	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities		Spring 2010	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities		Spring 2010	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Spring 2010	Inactive:	
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Spring 2010	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 challenge 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:

- I. The Religious Studies Major as a Career Choice
- II. Definitions of Religion
- III. Taxonomy of Religions

- IV. Comparisons of Theories of the Origin of Religion
- V. History of the Study of Religion as a Unique Discipline
- VI. Significance of the Historical Development and Changes that Occur in Religions
- VII. 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
- VIII. Methodological Approaches to the Study of Religion
- IX. Relationships Between Orthodox Religion and Popular Folk Traditions
- X. The Role, Contributions and Perspectives of Women
- XI. Ethnicity, Race, Class and Sexual Orientation in Religion
- XII. Examples Drawn from Specific Religious Traditions
- XIII. Relationship of Religion to Politics

### Assignment:

1. Weekly reading assignments of between 20-50 pages
2. Written homework (study questions on assigned reading)
3. In-class quizzes on readings
4. 2-4 objective exams
5. 2-4 essay exams
6. A research paper of 5-7 pages
7. Optional field trips
8. Optional in-class presentations
9. Discussions and/or debates
10. Final exam (objective, essay, or a combination)

### 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
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Writing 25 - 60%
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**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Analytical interpretations
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Problem solving 10 - 25%
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**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances, performance exams, oral presentations
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Skill Demonstrations 10 - 25%
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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, final exam

Exams  
20 - 40%

**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:**

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

Studying Religion: An Introduction Through Cases. Kessler, Gary E. McGraw-Hill, 2007 (Classic).

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

The Faith Instinct: How Religion Evolved and Why It Endures. Wade, Nicholas. Penguin, 2009.