

**RELS 2 Course Outline as of Fall 2017****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: RELS 2 Title: COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

Full Title: Comparative 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:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy		
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1981	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1981	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	<b>Effective:</b>	Fall 1981	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	<b>Effective:</b>	Fall 1981	<b>Inactive:</b>

### **CID:**

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

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will 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%
<b>Problem Solving:</b> Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.	
None	Problem solving 0 - 0%
<b>Skill Demonstrations:</b> All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.	
None	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%
<b>Exams:</b> All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.	
Multiple choice, Essay exams, short answer quizzes	Exams 25 - 45%
<b>Other:</b> 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