



World Religious and Spiritual Traditions – RELS 112

University Studies Program

Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2011
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2021
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: April 2026

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the prominent religious and spiritual traditions of the World. These include Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Primal (or Indigenous) Religions. Other ancient religions, and new religious movements, will also be discussed. Each tradition is explored in terms of origin and development (key figures, events, and evolution), worldview (divine reality, the problem and solution for human beings, life beyond death, etc.), ethical teachings, mystical approaches, and sacred writings, rituals and symbols. Meta-issues, such as secularization and religious pluralism, will also be examined. Students will gain knowledge and appreciation of each tradition, and more broadly, of religiosity and spirituality in general.

Program Information: This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery: This course is delivered face-to-face or online.

COTR Credits: 3

Hours for this course: 45 hours

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	
Other Contact Hours	
Total	45

Practicum Hours (if applicable):

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	N/A
Formal Work Experience	N/A
Other	N/A
Total	N/A

Course Outline Author or Contact:

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Signature

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

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Department Head Signature

Dean Signature

EDCO

Valid from: September 2021 – April 2026

Education Council Approval Date

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Flexible Assessment (FA):

Credit can be awarded for this course through (FA) Yes No

Learners may request formal recognition for flexible assessment at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

Transfer Credit: For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

Prior Course Number: N/A

Textbooks and Required Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Philip Novak, *The World's Wisdom*, New York: Harper One, 1995.

Denise L. Carmody & T.L. Brink. *Ways to the Center. An Introduction to World Religions*. 6th Ed. Wadsworth, 2006.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <http://go.cotr.bc.ca/tuition/tCalc.asp> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify the basic components of religious study: the sacred, myths, beliefs, ethics, community, rituals, symbols, and religious feelings
 - compare various theories regarding the origin and nature of religion in human life
 - discuss each religious tradition in terms of its origin, evolution and worldview
 - compare each religion on the distinct aspects of religious study
 - explore modern challenges to religion, such as science, secularization, and religious pluralism
 - write essays on central topics in religious study
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COURSE TOPICS:

- Introduction
- Primal (Indigenous) Traditions
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Jainism
- Chinese Traditions: Taoism and Confucianism
- Zoroastrianism and/or Greek Religion
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Modern Times: Secularization and New Religious Movements
- Conclusions

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Assignments	% Of Total Grade
Exams (2) (Both 30%)	60%
Essays (2) (Short: 10%; Long 30%)	40%
Total	100%

Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and use of electronic aids.

EXAM POLICY:

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

COURSE GRADE:

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

See www.cotr.bc.ca/policies for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

COURSE CHANGES:

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment, and marketing needs. The instructor endeavours to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.