

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE
LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION
GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

PHI Course Prefix	205 Course Number	Religions of the World Course Title	3-0 (Lec-Lab)	3 Semester Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduces the teachings, practices, social structures and histories of the religions of India (mainly Buddhism and Hinduism), and China and Japan (mainly Confucianism, Shinto and Taoism), and of the Middle East (mainly Christianity, Islam and Judaism). IAI H5 904N

TOPICAL OUTLINE

- I. Introduction to the Study of Religion
- II. Types: Four Traditional Ways of Being Religious
 - A. Personal Apprehension of a Holy Presence
 - B. Sacred Action: Myth and Ritual
 - C. Harmony with Cosmic Law
 - D. Mystical Insight through Spiritual Discipline
- III. Traditions
 - A. Religions of India
 - 1. Hinduism
 - 2. Buddhism
 - B. Religions of China and Japan
 - 1. Taoism
 - 2. Confucianism
 - 3. Shinto
 - C. Religions of the Middle East
 - 1. Judaism
 - 2. Christianity
 - 3. Islam

METHODS OF PRESENTATION

- 1. Lecture
- 2. Discussion
- 3. Small group work
- 4. Student presentations
- 5. Student debates
- 6. Slides/movies
- 7. Visiting speakers

STUDENT OUTCOMES: (*The student should . . .*)

Attitudes

- 1. learn to be appropriately skeptical.
- 2. be willing to learn from a variety of sources.
- 3. take personal responsibility for learning.
- 4. develop a sense of appreciation for multiculturalism.

Skills

- 1. read, write and speak critically and effectively about religious issues.
- 2. work maturely with diverse and conflicting religious views.
- 3. identify the presuppositions of religious doctrines.
- 4. explore the consequences of religious doctrines
- 5. develop a critical and appreciative awareness of religious ideas and practices.

6. engage in first hand experiential investigations of living manifestations of these religions such as worship services or mediation sessions.

Knowledge/Content

1. identify the basic ideas, practices and institutions of five or more different religions
2. explain the differences between gullible, critical and appreciative approaches to religion.
3. compare at least three methods of studying religion.
4. read and discuss with comprehension some of the basic scriptures of these religions.
5. investigate major themes and events in the history and contemporary life of these religions.
6. relate major trends in the interaction between these religions and their societies and cultures.
7. explain the major forces of secularization and how the various religions respond to them.
8. analyze similarities and differences between religions and within the varieties within each religion studied.

SOME METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. Quizzes
2. Exams (may be oral)
3. Written reading responses
4. Debates
5. Homework
6. Class activities
7. Participation
8. Field research project

SOME TEXTBOOKS/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Smith, *World Religions* 50th Edition. Harper One, 2009 ISBN: 0061660183

Ellwood, Robert S. and Barbara S. McCann, *Many Peoples, Many Faiths* 10th Edition.
Prentice Hall, 2013 ISBN: 0205797113

Molloy. *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change* 6th Edition.
McGraw Hill, 2012 ISBN: 0078038278

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