

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

PHIL 1115: Comparative World Religions

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 08 - Global Perspective

(MnTC Goals 6 and 8)

Introduction to the central beliefs, history, sacred texts, and practices of living religions in the world today. The similarities and differences between religions, and within the religions, will be explored. The principle religions studied will be Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/1998 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to the study of comparative religion, as distinct from a theological pursuit of truth
2. Descriptions intended to shed understanding of a religion in their own terms, rather than evaluating religions in pursuit of the "best view"
3. Introduction to the way in which various fields of study (i.e. archeology, anthropology, etc.) may contribute to the study of comparative religions
4. Introduction to characteristics of a "religion" (i.e., belief system, community, central stories, ethics, ritual, ideas of sacredness)
5. Introduction to diverse theories on the motivation for religion
6. Introduction to the distinction between prophetic, sacramental, and mystical orientation; this variety will be illustrated within the spectrum of each religion studied
7. Introduction to the spectrum of religious expressions ranging across orthodoxy, fundamentalism, modernism, and ecumenism
8. Introduction to central beliefs, practices, texts, and historical development of the following religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam
9. Introduction to variations within above religions (different schools, sects, etc.), identifying the spectrum of beliefs and/or practices within these faith traditions

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Apply key concepts within the field of religious studies, making interfaith and intrafaith comparisons
2. Recognize and explain how religious expression in literary and/or artistic forms of practice reflects the social context in which such forms of expression arose
3. Identify, infer, and explain ways in which diverse sacred texts have been used to support central beliefs of corresponding religions
4. Identify trends in geographical representations and corresponding cultural representations among religious followers in the world today
5. Compare and contrast examples of intrafaith similarities and differences, as illustrated in distinct beliefs, practices and central texts found within the same religious tradition
6. Explain the adaptation of religious movements/schools to culture
7. Explain the impact of religion upon culture
8. Explain the diverse ways in which orthodox, fundamentalist, modern, and ecumenical movements all aim toward peace through - at times - different means

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted