

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Course Number: PHIL 334 Department: Humanities/Social Sciences

Course Title: World Religions Semester: Spring Year: 2005

**Objectives/Competencies**

<b>Course Objective</b>	<b>Competencies</b>
<p>1. Appreciate the importance of studying World Religions as a means to understanding the world and humans as members of diverse cultural communities.</p> <p>2. Acquire knowledge of the perspectives and characteristic practices of “basic” religions including African and Native American.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Acquire an appreciative and sympathetic understanding of the religious experiences of different peoples around the world.</li><li>2. List several advantages of a knowledge of differing religious viewpoints of the world.</li><li>3. Name several major theories of the origin of religion</li><li>4. List four types of religious systems and where each might be found</li><li>5. Analyze and evaluate historically and culturally diverse conceptions of the meaning and purpose of human life and the relationship of those conceptions to the ultimate concerns of human beings</li><li>6. Develop a comparative and critical understanding of contemporary and historical religious beliefs and practices as diverse expressions of our humanity.</li><li>7. Describe in a variety of ways (orally, in writing, media presentation) the relevance of the study of world religion.</li></ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Be familiar with the characteristics of basic religions.</li><li>2. Be aware of the challenges to understanding historical and contemporary basic religions.</li></ol>

Course Objective	Competencies
<p>3. Acquire knowledge of the basic perspectives, sacred text and characteristic practices of religions that originated in India including Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Understand important terms including ancestor veneration, animism, mythology and rites of passage.</li> <li>4. Understand the similarities of basic and literary religions.</li> <li>5. be familiar with the diversity of Native American religion.</li> <li>6. know about the rituals and beliefs of several Native American communities.</li> <li>7. understand the meaning of terms including, animism, taboo, sun dance and vision quest.</li> <li>8. understand some of the ways in which Native American religions have adapted to the coming of European cultures, communities and religions.</li> <li>9. Be familiar with the diversity of traditional African religions.</li> <li>10. Know about the beliefs of several African communities, including the Yoruba of Nigeria.</li> <li>11. Understand the terms High God, puberty rites and initiation, and spiritual curer.</li> <li>12. Understand some of the ways in which African religions have responded to Christianity and Islam.</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have a basic understanding of the origins and historical development of Hinduism.</li> <li>2. Be familiar with major Hindu texts including the Vedas, Laws of Manu, Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita.</li> <li>3. Understand Hinduism's major gods and goddesses.</li> <li>4. Be familiar with the tradition's ritual and spiritual practices.</li> <li>5. Know important names and terms including karma, dharma, Aryan, Brahman, atman, Brahma, Sarasvati, Shiva, Paravati, Vishnu and Lakshmi, Bhakti, samsara and moksha.</li> <li>6. Understand the major beliefs and practices of Jainism.</li> <li>7. Be familiar with important terms, names and concepts including: Mahavira, Tirthankara, moksha, Jina, karma, jiva, ajiva, ahimsa, Agamas, Svetambara, Digambara, Pajusana and Divali.</li> </ol>

Course Objective	Competencies
<p>4. Acquire knowledge of the basic perspectives, sacred text and characteristic practices of religions that originated in China and Japan including Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Understand the position of Jainism in contemporary India</li> <li>9. Be familiar with Buddhist accounts of the life and teachings of Siddhartha Gautama.</li> <li>10. Be familiar with major Buddhist festivals and holy days including the new year, the celebration of the birth of the Buddha, the Chinese and Japanese Buddhist festival of souls, and the robe offering.</li> <li>11. Recognize the major Buddhist schools and understand their differences and similarities.</li> <li>12. Know important names and terms including: Buddha, Rahula, tanha, Sangha, Dharma, Nirvana, anatman, Bodhisattva, dhyani, Amitabha, koan, satori, tantras and Dalai Lama.</li> <li>13. Be familiar with the biography of guru Nanak.</li> <li>14. Understand the ways in which elements of both Hinduism and Islam contributed to the development of Sikhism.</li> <li>15. Understand the major divisions within Sikhism and how they developed.</li> <li>16. Be familiar with the basic teachings and ritual practices of Sikhism.</li> <li>17. Recognize individuals and terms including: guru, Nanak, Kabir, the Adi Granth, Gobind Singh, Udasis, Sahajdharis, Singhs, gurdwara.</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand the historical development of religion in China.</li> <li>2. Know the basic concepts of Chinese folk religion.</li> <li>3. Be familiar with the life of Lao-tzu and the basic teachings of Taoism.</li> <li>4. Be familiar with the life of Confucius and his basic teachings.</li> <li>5. Recognize important names and terms including filial piety, yin and yang, I Ching, Shang Ti, Tao Te Ching, Analects of Confucius, li, and jen.</li> <li>6. Understand the development of Shinto as an indigenous religion</li> </ol>

Course Objective	Competencies
<p>5. Acquire knowledge of the basic perspectives, sacred text and characteristic practices of religions that originated in the Middle East including Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Baha'i.</p>	<p>that has been subject to foreign influence.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Be able to describe and differentiate three forms of Shinto in modern Japan.</li> <li>8. Be familiar with important names and terms including kami, Amaterasu, Kojiki, Ryobu (Two Aspect Shinto), bushido, samurai, kami-dana, and the shrine at Ise.</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be familiar with the beliefs and practices of ancient Persian religion before Zoroaster.</li> <li>2. Be familiar with the biography and teachings of Zoroaster.</li> <li>3. Understand Zoroastrian views of humanity, good and evil, and life after death.</li> <li>4. Be able to trace the development of Zoroastrianism from the death of Zoroaster, through antiquity and the rise of Islam, to the migration to India.</li> <li>5. Recognize terms and concepts including Ahura Mazda, Chinvat Bridge, Spenta Mainyu and Angra Mainyu, Yasna, dakhmas and saoshyants.</li> <li>6. Be familiar with the history and basic teachings of Judaism.</li> <li>7. Know the names and understand the importance of major figures in the Hebrew Bible.</li> <li>8. Be familiar with Jewish religious texts including the Torah, Mishnah and Talmud.</li> <li>9. Be familiar with the diversity of contemporary Judaism.</li> <li>10. Recognize terms and concepts including Pharisees, Sadducees, synagogue, Sinai, Exodus, El, YHWH, the temple of Solomon, Sabbath, kosher, rabbi, haggadah, halachah, kabbalah, Maimonides, Yiddish, Shabbatai Zevi, Moses Mendelssohn, Baal Shem Tov and Theodor Herzl.</li> <li>11. Understand the social, political and religious contexts in which Christianity developed.</li> </ol>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Be familiar with the life and teachings of Jesus.</li> <li>13. Understand relationships between the principle books of the New Testament.</li> <li>14. Know the names and teachings of people who made important contributions to the development of Christianity</li> <li>15. Be aware of the major divisions within the Christian tradition.</li> <li>16. Know the meanings of important terms including: Gospel, synoptic gospels, parables, crucifixion, miracles, Messiah, Holy Trinity, Mass, transubstantiation, icons, pope, synod, council, penance, indulgence, baptism, confirmation, Protestantism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and evangelism.</li> <li>17. Understand the development of Islam and its historical ties to Christianity and Judaism.</li> <li>18. Be familiar with the biography of the Prophet Muhammad and understand his place in Islamic tradition and thought.</li> <li>19. Understand the importance of the Qur'an and its major teachings.</li> <li>20. Identify the Five Pillars of faith.</li> <li>21. Understand the differences between Sunni and Shi'ite Islam.</li> <li>22. Identify where Islam has flourished and taken root.</li> <li>23. Recognize important terms and concepts including Abraham, Ishmael, Ka'ba, Hijrah, Mecca, Medina, hadith, imam, Five Pillars, the Caliphate, jihad, halal/haram, sufi and mosque.</li> <li>24. Understand how the Baha'i Faith originated.</li> <li>25. Be able to trace the development of Baha'i from its origins to the present.</li> <li>26. Be familiar with the biographies of early Baha'i religious leaders.</li> <li>27. Understand the concept of progressive revelation and its implications for Baha'i religious attitudes.</li> <li>28. Be familiar with important names, terms and concepts including: Ali Muhammad/Bab-ud-Din, Husayn Ali/Bahau'llah, Baha'i</li> </ol>

<b>Course Objective</b>	<b>Competencies</b>
<p>6. Develop critical awareness and global perspective with regard to the academic study of world religions.</p> <p>7. Describe the worldviews of the major religions in ways that would be considered representative and fair by members of that religion</p>	<p>views concerning heaven and hell, education, poverty, science and work, the Universal House of Justice, the month of Ala and the feast of Ridvan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and become critically aware of one’s own assumptions, values and worldviews and the impact of these assumptions on one’s response to diverse worldviews.</li> <li>2. Compare the way various world religions deal with social issues;</li> <li>3. Demonstrate a better understanding of one’s own religious background and that of the surrounding community.</li> <li>4. Think critically and creatively about the historical development of the beliefs and practices of the major world religions and their impact on individual, social, political, and cultural interaction past and present.</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work cooperatively and respectfully with others in small group discussions, research projects, and presentations</li> <li>2. Employ basic research skills, including the use of computer technology to investigate and gather information on various topics and figures discussed in class.</li> <li>3. Analyze similarities and differences between cultures in terms of dominant religious traditions, beliefs, and practices</li> <li>4. Develop oral and writing skills necessary to adequately express reflections on the course materials.</li> <li>5. Research a relevant topic in World Religions and present the research to peers.</li> </ol>