

Course Description

REL2300 | Survey of World Religions | 3.00 credits

This course acts as a comprehensive survey of the cultural origins, beliefs, and contemporary practices of the world's religions: Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism and Zen Buddhism. Special attention is given to the importance of each religion's cultural beginnings and its current practice throughout the world. This course also connects the role of women and the treatment of non-believers within its culture, both historically and currently.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will increase their understanding of the relationship between culture and religion by:

- Identifying and describing the ways in which religion influences daily practice of secular and religious life in different cultures.
- Analyzing how different cultural contexts affect an individual's ability to practice religion.
- Applying theological principles to understand the relationship between the individual and religious fulfillment, as defined by each culture.
- Analyzing the issue of theodicy within each religion.
- Analyzing the correlation/causation considering religious differences and similarities in modern practices of faith.
- Students will be able to evaluate the impact of media and technology on modern religious apologetics.

Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Cultural / Global Perspective
- Ethical issues
- Social Responsibility

Competency 2: The student will create a framework of religious practices and meanings to analyze the differences and similarities between religions within their own and foreign cultures.

- Identifying and defining specific religious beliefs and practices for each religion covered within the semester.
- Analyzing religious practices and theology for its connection to its sacred reality.
- Defining and analyzing each religion's unique characteristics
- Analyzing the ethical principles of each religion and compare them to modern secular ethical principles.
- Analyzing death rituals and connecting them to understanding of the sacred reality.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective
- Ethical issues
- Social Responsibility
- Critical Thinking

Competency 3: The student will practice college-level research and analytical writing skills with short-essay responses and comprehensive term papers.

- Defining and accessing academic online research practices for journal articles.
- Analyzing sources for academic writing
- Using resources in the campus library and online to interact with the librarians as part of an academic research assignment regarding different aspects of the religions studied.
- Using online resources for editing and AI to improve writing skills.

Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Computer / Technology Usage
- Ethical issues
- Social Responsibility
- Cultural / Global Perspective