



Course Description

REL2300 | Survey of World Religions | 3.00 credits

This course includes works from the Western canon and explores the origins, beliefs, and practices of world religions, with a focus on historical contexts and interactions. Students will examine literature, history, art, music, and philosophy to gain insight into human experiences through the lens of religious thought. By engaging in these texts and concepts, students will develop their ability to analyze the role of religion with a historical perspective.

Course Competencies:

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

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

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 by:

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

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

1. Defining and accessing academic online research practices for journal articles
2. Analyzing sources for academic writing
3. 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
4. Using online resources for editing and AI to improve writing skills

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society
- Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Use computers and emerging technologies effectively