WORLD RELIGIONS
Course Syllabus

Course Code: REL 305
Course Type: 135 hours/4 Months (120 Days)

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our World Religions course offers students a comparative study of the world’s major religions. We examine important themes such as myths, rituals, scriptures, and paths of transformation throughout the course. We cover the historical aspects of Native American, African, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism religions, as well as modern day philosophies.

B. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

This course is self-paced, independent study, in an online environment. It takes a lot more discipline than an in person class. You are responsible for scheduling your study time and sticking to it regularly. This course will take approximately 135 hours to complete. This includes your reading, module activities, and module exams. The text for this course is an embedded eTextbook.

Each of your modules consists of reading materials, learning activities, videos, websites, and a module exam. Your module exams determine your grade in the course. The final module of the course involves a cumulative, timed, proctored exam. Your exams include questions from the reading only, however we encourage you to view all the videos and read the associated articles. These materials are an extension of your reading materials and will be great resources for you in the future.

C. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify major beliefs and rituals of the world’s religions
2. Recall various paths of transformation and reconnection in different religions
3. Recognize the communities, organizations, institutions, and actions that influence major religions
4. Define the ethical values found in major religions
5. Identify characteristics and traits of modern day religions
## Module # and Topics

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<tr>
<th>Module # and Topics</th>
<th>Module Subtopics</th>
<th>Module Learning Objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module 1:</strong></td>
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</table>
| Meaning of Religion/Native American Religions | • A Definition of Religion  
• The Need for Transformation and Reconnection  
• Ethics  
• Organization and Institution  
• Creation Myths in Native American Religions  
• Ultimate Reality  
• Gods, Goddesses, and Sacred Powers  
• Paths of Transformation and Reconnection  
• Medicine Societies  
• Women in North American Religions | • Define religion  
• Identify the need for transformation and reconnection  
• Define ethics  
• Recall organizations and institutions  
• Identify creation myths in Native American religions  
• Define ultimate reality  
• Identify gods, goddesses, and sacred powers  
• Recall paths of transformation and reconnection  
• Identify the basics of medicine societies  
• Recall women in North American religions | 1. Read Chapters 1-2  
2. Practice the Learning Activities  
3. Watch the Videos  
4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)  
5. Take the Exam | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| **Module 2:**       |                  |                             |             |                  |
| African Traditional Religions | • Yoruba Creation Myth  
• Barotse Creation Myth  
• The Spirit World  
• Ancestors  
• Worship Rituals  
• Rites of Passage: Transforming Life  
• Festivals: Transforming Time  
• Sacred Kings  
• Healers | • Recall Yoruba creation myth  
• Identify Barotse creation myth  
• Recognize the spirit world  
• Recognize ancestors  
• Identify worship rituals  
• Recall rites of passage  
• Identify the fundamentals of festivals  
• Recall the basics of sacred kings  
• Identify healers | 1. Read Chapter 3  
2. Practice the Learning Activities  
3. Watch the Videos  
4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)  
5. Take the Exam | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| **Module 3:**       |                  |                             |             |                  |
| Hinduism            | • Indus Civilization  
• The Vedic Period  
• The Classical Period  
• Four Stages of Life  
• Four Goals of Life  
• Four Castes  
• Women in Hinduism  
• Encounters of Islam  
• The Modern Period | • Recall aspects of the Indus civilization  
• Recognize the basics of the Vedic period  
• Recall aspects of the Classical period  
• Identify four stages of life  
• Recall four goals of life  
• Recognize the basics of four castes  
• Identify women in Hinduism  
• Recall encounters of Islam  
• Recognize aspects of the Modern period | 1. Read Chapter 4  
2. Practice the Learning Activities  
3. Watch the Videos  
4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)  
5. Take the Exam | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
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</table>
| Module 4: Jainism and Buddhism | • Jainism Beginnings: A Religion Out of Cultural Upheaval  
• Meditation  
• Main Branches: Shvetambaras and Digambaras  
• Monks, Nuns, Laypeople  
• Gautama’s Experience of Enlightenment  
• Buddhist Teaching (Dharma)  
• Major Schools of Buddhism  
• Decline and Disappearance of Buddhism from India  
• Mahayana Buddhism in Japan  
• Buddhism in Tibet  
• Women in Buddhism | • Recall the beginnings of Jainism  
• Recognize basics of meditation  
• Recall the main branches  
• Define monks, nuns, laypeople  
• Identify Gautama’s experience of enlightenment  
• Recall aspects of Buddhist teaching  
• Recognize major schools of Buddhism  
• Recall the basics of the decline and disappearance of Buddhism from India  
• Recognize Mahayana Buddhism in Japan  
• Identify Buddhism in Tibet  
• Recall women in Buddhism | 1. Read Chapters 5-6  
2. Practice the Learning Activities  
3. Watch the Videos  
4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)  
5. Take the Exam | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| Module 5: Early Chinese Religion and Daoism | • The Life of Confucius  
• Confucianism: Belief in the Sacred  
• Confucian Ethics  
• Women in Confucianism  
• Neo-Confucianism  
• Dao as the Natural World  
• Sectarian Heyday  
• Later Development of Daoism | • Recall aspects of Confucius  
• Identify Confucian ethics  
• Recognize the basics of women in Confucianism  
• Define Neo-Confucianism  
• Identify Dao in the Natural World  
• Recall aspects of the Sectarian Heyday  
• Identify later development Daoism | 1. Read Chapters 7-8  
2. Practice the Learning Activities  
3. Watch the Videos  
4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)  
5. Take the Exam | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| Module 6: Shinto and Zoroastrianism | • Prehistoric Periods  
• The Myth of the Creation of Japan  
• Purification Rites  
• Shinto Worship  
• Later Development of Shinto  
• The Life of Zoraster  
• Dualism  
• Eschatology  
• Women in Zoroastrianism | • Recall prehistoric periods  
• Identify the myth of creation of Japan  
• Recognize the basics of purification rights  
• Recall later development of Shinto  
• Recognize the life of Zoraster  
• Identify aspects of Dualism  
• Define eschatology  
• Identify women in Zoroastrianism | 1. Read Chapters 9-10  
2. Practice the Learning Activities  
3. Watch the Videos  
4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)  
5. Take the Exam | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
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<td><strong>Module 7: Judaism</strong></td>
<td>Patriarchal Religion: Abraham and the Patriarchs</td>
<td>Recall aspects of Abraham and Patriarchs</td>
<td>1. Read Chapter 11</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
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<td>Mosaic Religion: Moses and the Exodus</td>
<td>Define Mosaic religion</td>
<td>2. Practice the Learning Activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Hebrew Scriptures</td>
<td>Recognize aspects of Hebrew scriptures</td>
<td>3. Watch the Videos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Talmudic Laws</td>
<td>Recall basics of the Talmudic laws</td>
<td>4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Ten Commandments</td>
<td>Recognize the ten commandments</td>
<td>5. Take the Exam</td>
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<td>Ethics of the Prophets</td>
<td>Identify ethics of the prophets</td>
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<td>Religious Leaders in Ancient Israel</td>
<td>Recall religious leaders in ancient Israel</td>
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<td>Medieval Movements</td>
<td>Identify medieval movements</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Modern Judaism</td>
<td>Define modern Judaism</td>
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<td><strong>Module 8: Christianity</strong></td>
<td>The Life of Jesus</td>
<td>Recall the life of Jesus</td>
<td>1. Read Chapter 12</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Death and Resurrection of Jesus</td>
<td>Identify the death and resurrection of Jesus</td>
<td>2. Practice the Learning Activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Teachings of Jesus</td>
<td>Identify the teachings of Jesus</td>
<td>4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paul: His Life and Teachings</td>
<td>Identify Paul: his life and teachings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Early Church</td>
<td>Recall basics of the early church</td>
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<td>Christianity in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>Identify Christianity in the middle ages</td>
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<td>The Protestant Reformation</td>
<td>Recognize the basics of the Protestant Reformation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christianity in the Modern World</td>
<td>Identify Christianity in the modern world</td>
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<td><strong>Module 9: Islam</strong></td>
<td>Arabian Religion Before Islam</td>
<td>Recall Arabian religion before Islam</td>
<td>1. Read Chapter 13</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Life of Muhammad</td>
<td>Recognize the life of Muhammad</td>
<td>2. Practice the Learning Activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Belief in the Sacred</td>
<td>Identify belief in the sacred</td>
<td>3. Watch the Videos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Five Pillars of Islam</td>
<td>Identify the five pillars of Islam</td>
<td>4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Expansion of the Islamic Community After Muhammad</td>
<td>Recognize the expansion of the Islamic community after Muhammad</td>
<td>5. Take the Exam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development of Islam from the Abbasid Dynasty to the Modern Period</td>
<td>Recall development of Islam</td>
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<td>Major Groups in Islam</td>
<td>Differentiate between major groups in Islam</td>
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<td>Islam in the Modern World</td>
<td>Recognize basics of the Islam in the modern world</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module # and Topics</td>
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<td>Module Learning Objectives</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>Module 10: Sikhism and the New Horizon</td>
<td>• The Founding of Sikhism: Guru Nanak&lt;br&gt;• The Adi Granth&lt;br&gt;• Essential Teachings of Sikhism&lt;br&gt;• Historical Development&lt;br&gt;• Women in Sikhism&lt;br&gt;• Native American Church&lt;br&gt;• Santeria and Vodun&lt;br&gt;• New Movements from India&lt;br&gt;• New Religious from Japan&lt;br&gt;• New Jewish Movements&lt;br&gt;• The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (LDS)&lt;br&gt;• The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification&lt;br&gt;• The Nation of Islam&lt;br&gt;• Baha’I&lt;br&gt;• Neopaganism: Wicca&lt;br&gt;• Scientology</td>
<td>• Recall the basic founding of Sikhism&lt;br&gt;• Define the Adi Granth&lt;br&gt;• Identify essential teachings of Sikhism&lt;br&gt;• Recognize the historical development&lt;br&gt;• Identify the basics of women in Sikhism&lt;br&gt;• Recall Native American churches&lt;br&gt;• Recognize new movements from India&lt;br&gt;• Identify new religions from Japan&lt;br&gt;• Identify Baha’I&lt;br&gt;• Recall basics of Neopaganism: Wicca&lt;br&gt;• Recognize the basics of scientology</td>
<td>1. Read Chapters 14-15&lt;br&gt;2. Practice the Learning Activities&lt;br&gt;3. Watch the Videos&lt;br&gt;4. Review the Webliography (Web Links)&lt;br&gt;5. Take the Exam</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 11: Steps to Course Completion</td>
<td>• Final Exam&lt;br&gt;• Course Survey&lt;br&gt;• Certificate of Completion</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1. Take the Optional Cumulative Practice Final Exam&lt;br&gt;2. Review the Proctored Exam Information&lt;br&gt;3. Create an Account with Proctor U&lt;br&gt;4. Schedule an Exam Time&lt;br&gt;5. Take the Cumulative Proctored Final Exam&lt;br&gt;6. Submit the Course Survey&lt;br&gt;7. Print Your Certificate of Completion</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**E. TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- Textbook (required): *Discovering World Religions* by Gabriel J. Gomes
(All required materials are included in your tuition, there are no additional fees.)

F. GRADING RUBRIC

We use a percentage system for grading quizzes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentage Average</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>990 - 1100</td>
<td>90 – 100 %</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>880 – 989</td>
<td>80 – 89 %</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>770 – 879</td>
<td>70 – 79 %</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>660 – 769</td>
<td>60 – 69 %</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 659</td>
<td>0 – 59 %</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Module Exams & Final Exam Policy

Our module exams are not timed and you are allowed 3 attempts to achieve your highest score. The final module of this course consists of a one hour, 50 question, cumulative, proctored exam through ProctorU. You must achieve a score of 50% on the final exam to pass. Unlike the other module exams, the final cannot be taken more than once. If you need to take the final exam again, you must re-purchase the entire course. A minimum 70% cumulative score in the course is required to pass the course. This means you can fail a quiz, but still pass the course if you achieve a 70% cumulative score. All exams and quizzes are weighted equally.

G: PROCTORED FINAL EXAM

The final module of this course consists of a one hour, 50 question, cumulative proctored exam proctored by ProctorU. You will need to have access to a webcam, microphone and a computer in order to take the proctored final exam. You are allowed to bring notes to the exam. You will need to create an account at https://go.proctoru.com prior to scheduling your final exam. From there, you can select your exam and create an appointment. Possible dates for the exam will appear in a calendar. All exams need to be scheduled 72 hours in advance in order to not incur any additional cost. The normal fee for proctoring is covered in your tuition. If you need to take an exam sooner than 72 hours there will be an additional fee.

Once you are logged in to take the exam, you will be introduced to your proctor who will walk you through the proctoring process. You will need to hold up your government issued photo ID to help the proctor authenticate your identity. Then, the proctor will have you pan the webcam 360 degrees around the room so they can see the
surroundings. This step is followed to ensure there are no unauthorized materials in the workspace. During the exam, the proctor is using screen-sharing and audible programs to monitor your surroundings to ensure academic integrity.

To learn more about the proctoring process, go to: [https://www.proctoru.com/portal/ed4credit](https://www.proctoru.com/portal/ed4credit).

**H: SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

**Internet Connection**

- Broadband or High-Speed - DSL, Cable, and Wireless Connections

*Dial-Up internet connections will result in a diminished online experience. Classroom pages may load slowly and viewing large audio and video files may not be possible.

**Hardware Requirements**

- Processor - 2GHz Processor or Higher
- Memory - 1 GB RAM Minimum Recommended

*Our courses are accessible through multiple mobile learning platforms.

**PC Software Requirements**

- Operating Systems - Windows 7 or higher
- Microsoft Office 2007 or higher. Also, you could use a general Word Processing application to save and open Microsoft Office formats (.doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx)
- Internet Browsers - Google Chrome is highly recommended
  - Cookies MUST be enabled
  - Pop-ups MUST be allowed (Pop-up Blocker disabled)
- PowerPoint Viewer (if you do not have PowerPoint)
- Adobe PDF Reader
- QuickTime, Windows Media Player &/or Real Player

**MAC Software Requirements**

- Operating Systems - Mac OS x 10 or higher with Windows
- Mac office programs or a Word Processing application to save and open Microsoft Office formats (.doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx)
- Internet Browsers- Google Chrome is highly recommended
  - Cookies MUST be enabled
  - Pop-ups MUST be allowed (Pop-up Blocker disabled)
- PowerPoint Viewer (if you do not have PowerPoint)
- Adobe PDF Reader
- Apple QuickTime Media Player
I: TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical Support is available to assist with computing or classroom technical issues. Technical Support is available at the classroom login page, as a link in each course. Technical Support utilizes a ticketing system assigning a unique ticket number to track the progress and responses online. For your reference we provide complete archives and history of all your support requests. A valid email address is required to submit a ticket.

J: INFORMATION, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

College Credit Recommendation

Ed4Credit courses have gone through an intensive quality review process by ACE CREDIT® prior to being available to students. ACE CREDIT has evaluated and recommended all Ed4Credit courses for credit. This course has been recommended for three (3) college credits. Once you have completed an Ed4Credit course, you are eligible to receive an ACE Transcript for credit transfer purposes. Founded in 1918, ACE is the major coordinating body for all the nation’s higher education institutions, representing more than 1,600 college and university presidents and more than 200 related associations nationwide. For more than 30 years, colleges and universities have trusted ACE CREDIT to provide reliable course equivalency information to facilitate their decisions to award academic credit. For more information, visit the ACE CREDIT Transcript Service website at www.acenet.edu/credit/transcripts.

Accommodations of Disability Policy

It is the policy of our company to provide an appropriate environment to optimize learning of educational materials. Anyone that needs additional assistance for a disability can contact our company to make additional accommodations, when available.

Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of our company to not discriminate against any student on the basis of gender, ethnic background, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, handicap or disability.

Online Etiquette & Courtesy

Online communications need to be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. Spelling and grammar are very important in an online course. What you put into an online course reflects on your level of professionalism. It is important not to take disagreement personally. Responses to different ideas and observations need to be objective. Being objective means maintaining boundaries and not making personal attacks on the ability of others or making statements that have the potential to be taken personally. An important part of online learning is discussion. Differences in thinking are good because our knowledge is broadened. Because we have differences, we will have conflict. The important thing is to handle conflict in a way that does not create defensiveness which blocks learning. Here are online references that discuss online netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html.
**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to exhibit academic integrity through their educational experiences and to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, cheating on an examination, or other academic work to be submitted, is subject to disciplinary action.

Students are allowed to reference course materials while taking quizzes and tests due to their emphasis on application; however, exams must be taken independently.

Students found responsible for an act or acts of academic dishonesty will be subject to academic and disciplinary sanctions. Academic sanctions may include withdrawal from the course with a grade of F and/or a reduction of a grade in the course. Disciplinary sanctions may include suspension for a specified period of time, permanent separation from the program, and/or filing of criminal charges.

No certificate of completion will be given if the course is completed by anyone other than you. When you enroll in the course you are stating under penalty of perjury that you, and not another person, studied the material in its entirety and completed all requirements. By registering for this course, you understand that it may be a crime to make false statements or to falsify documents submitted.

**Best Practices for Online**

We provide instruction in an online learning environment. An online learning environment needs structure for effective communication to occur. Below is a list of guidelines for effective online communication:

- Stay engaged and on-task in your course.
- Utilize good time management skills.
- Read your messages in the message system.
- Communicate with a respectful, professional tone in discussion threads (collaborative learning).
- Uphold the standards of Academic Integrity set forth by this company.
- Avoid typing in all caps. Typing in all caps in the online environment is viewed as SHOUTING and should not be used. If you wish to place emphasis on an important passage, use bold.
- Recognize that you are participating in an online dialogue. Use correct spelling and grammar in all forms of your writing.
- Utilize Netiquette standards in all forms of communication.