



Course Syllabus

- **COURSE NUMBER:** PHIL225L Section EZZ

-
- **COURSE TITLE/MODALITY:** Comparative World Religions / Online Course

-
- **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

-
- **SEMESTER:** Spring 2024

-
- **FACULTY NAME:** Cathy Kubec, Ed.S., M.A., MSN

-
- **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** ckubec@ccsnh.edu

-
- **OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

-
- **PRE-REQUISITES:** None

-
- **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course examines the major “questions” or “issues” addressed by religion in general. It then examines major, representative systems of religious belief and practice, as well as their historical and sociological development. These religious systems are analyzed using a “world view outline” which addresses different aspects of religious belief and practice, such as the Absolute, the Human Problem, the Human Solution, Rituals, the Meaning of History, Life after Death, Community and Ethics, and Attitudes Toward Other Religions.

-
- **TEXT/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:**
Textbook: *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith
-

- **GRADING:**

Grades will be assigned based on the total number of points earned.

10 Discussion Boards @ 40 points each	400 Points
2 Quizzes @ 75 points each	150 Points
Individual Project	150 Points
World View Paper	150 Points
Final Exam	150 Points

Total Possible: 1000 points

Grading Scale:

A 930-1000	B 830-869	C 730-769	D 630-669
A- 900-929	B- 800-829	C- 700-729	D- 600-629
B+ 870-899	C+ 770-799	D+ 670-699	F Below 600

- **COURSE OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the historical and social context of the development of major religious systems.
2. Critically compare several representative religious belief systems.
3. Discuss major components of various religious practices and forms of worship.
4. Compare excerpts from important bodies of scripture and sacred stories.
5. Analyze various religions based on their world-view.
6. Identify and correct misconceptions about a number of major world religions.

- **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT**

The content of this course is designed to challenge your viewpoints and perspective as part of your learning experience. It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives are well-served by this course. Students' learning needs will be addressed both in and out of class, and the diversity of students will benefit the class and will be considered a resource and strength. Materials and activities presented in class will respect diversity including gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture.

- Discuss privately with me if you feel your success in the class is being impacted by experiences outside of class. I am always open to listening to students' experiences and want to find acceptable ways to process and address the issue.
- If you feel that something offensive occurred regarding DEI topics in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please let me know.
- Please make me aware if you have a name and/or set of pronouns that are different from those appearing on your official records.

- I encourage you to seek out other resources, such as an academic advisor or another trusted faculty member, if you feel more comfortable addressing issues with these individuals. [Anonymous feedback can be submitted here.](#)

It is my hope that this course meets your every expectation as a challenging, engaging, and respectful learning experience. If you find this not to be the case, I would welcome the opportunity to address your concerns. This is not only a courtesy; it is a matter of process and procedure. Should we fail to arrive at a mutually satisfactory understanding, you should take the matter to my immediate supervisor, Stephen Freeborn, at SFreeborn@ccsnh.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE*

Week	Canvas Module	Topics	Textbook Readings	Assignments, Quizzes Discussion Boards & Final Exam
Jan 16 - 20	1	Understanding Religion	**	Introductions
Jan 21 - 27	2	Religions of Antiquity	**	DB #1
Jan 28 – Feb 3	3	Judaism	Smith, Ch. VII	DB #2
Feb 4 - 10	4	Judaism (continued)	**	DB #3
Feb 11 - 17	5	Islam	Smith, Ch. VI	DB #4
Feb 18 - 24	6	Islam (continued)	**	DB #5
Feb 25 – Mar 2	7	Christianity	Smith, Ch. VIII	Quiz #1 due Mar. 2nd
Mar 3 - 9	8	Christianity (continued)	**	DB #6
Mar 10 - 16	NONE	Happy Spring Break—No Classes		NONE
Mar 17 - 23	10	Hinduism and Sikhism	Smith, Ch. II	DB #7
Mar 24 - 30	11	Buddhism	Smith, Ch. III	DB #8
Mar 31 – Apr 6	12	Confucianism	Smith, Ch. IV	Quiz #2 due Apr. 6 th
Apr 7 - 13	13	Taoism	Smith, Ch. V	DB #9
Apr 14 - 20	14	Shintoism	**	DB #10 Individual Project Due Apr. 15 th
Apr 21 - 27	15	Religion in Today's World	**	DB #11
Apr 28 – May 4	16	Take Final Exam & Complete World View Paper		Final Exam & World View Paper Due May 2nd

*Note: If any updates or revisions are needed to this schedule, they will be posted in the Canvas Modules. Please refer to the Canvas Modules for all due dates.

** See additional required resource material and links posted in Canvas modules.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

- **CANVAS AND EMAIL**

Since this is a fully online class, students are expected to regularly check Canvas and their college email. If I communicate with you by email, it will be using your college email address. All work should be submitted via Canvas. If you are having trouble with Canvas, contact me as soon as possible.

- **DISCUSSION BOARDS**

There will be a total of 10 required discussion board assignments during this course. Each of the discussions will be worth up to 40 points each (25 points for your initial response to the thread and 15 points for your reply to other students' posts). Your response to the instructor's posted question should be posted by 11:59 pm Wednesday night of that week, and your reply to two other students' posts must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the Saturday night of the week that the discussion board topic was assigned. You will be graded according to a rubric provided in Canvas. Remember: you must respond to the instructor's question and then comment on two other classmates' posts. More information on the discussions will be posted under the weekly modules on Canvas.

NOTE: Eleven discussion boards will be available, even though you only need to complete 10 of them. If you complete all 11 Discussion Boards, the one with your lowest grade will be dropped from your final grade.

- **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT**

You will create a Power Point presentation that explains three misconceptions people have about each of four different religions we have studied this semester, and post it on Canvas, as directed. (That is 12 misconceptions in all -- three for each of the four religions you select). In your Power Point, explain how the misconception originated, and then refute each misconception by providing accurate, well-substantiated arguments. Include your references as the last slide in your Power Point.

- **WORLD VIEW PAPER**

This is a type of "reflection" paper in which you will explain how having an understanding of multiple religions might affect one's "world view." Of course, a person's world view may be more secular and scientific, rather than religious, but since this is a course in Comparative World Religions, the focus of your paper should be on topics discussed in the course. You are neither expected, nor required, to include your own personal world view in this paper, but some students may wish to do so. The instructor will keep all papers confidential. You are to address the following questions in your paper:

1. What is a person's moral and ethical code, and what part do their religious beliefs play in forming that code?
2. How does a person arrive at their beliefs about concepts such as the existence of God or gods, heaven, hell, reincarnation, etc.
3. Why are there hostile views such as antisemitism, islamophobia, anti-Christian

sentiment, etc., in our world?

4. Can a better understanding of different religions decrease the amount of prejudice exhibited in society? If so, how? If not, why not?
5. What surprised you most about one of the religions you learned about in this course, and why?

The World View Papers should be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font, and should be no less than 3 full pages and no more than 5 pages in length. You must cite at least three sources in a Reference Page (not part of the 3 pages). Your textbook must be one of your sources. The paper will be graded by a rubric. Additional information will be provided in Canvas.

- **DUE DATES AND MAKEUP/LATE WORK**

Students are expected to turn in assigned work on time. Unexcused late submission of an assignment will earn either no points or a reduction in points, depending on the assignment. To request an extended deadline, you **MUST** submit a written (email) request and be given written (email) permission by the instructor. See Canvas for details.

- **NEED HELP?**

Students sometimes need additional help in understanding course materials or assignments. Providing help is part of an instructor's responsibility. Please contact me as soon as possible at ckubec@ccsnh.edu if you need additional guidance, clarification, or are otherwise experiencing difficulty being successful in the course. You can generally expect a reply to your email within 24 hours, and we can set up a Zoom appointment if necessary. If you have not heard back from me after 24 hours, please resend your email!