

# COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>LAST REVIEW</b>	Spring 2021
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Comparative World Religions
<b>COURSE NUMBER</b>	HUMN 0207
<b>DIVISION</b>	Arts, Communications, and Humanities
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	HUMN
<b>CIP CODE</b>	24.0101
<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>	3
<b>CONTACT HOURS/WEEK</b>	Class: 3                      Lab: X                      Clinical: X
<b>PREREQUISITES</b>	None

**COURSE PLACEMENT** Students must meet the correct placement measure for this course. Information may be found at:  
<https://www.kckcc.edu/admissions/information/mandatory-evaluation-placement.html>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the six dimensions of religion: experiential, mythic, ritual, doctrinal, ethical, and social. The focus is on the inter-relatedness among the six dimensions and how people live their lives in a religiously pluralistic society. The major world religions studied are Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

## KANSAS SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER: REL1010

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

## PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

This course is part of a program aligned through the Kansas Board of Regents and Technical Education Authority. For more information, please visit:  
[https://kansasregents.org/workforce\\_development/program-alignment](https://kansasregents.org/workforce_development/program-alignment)

### **General Education Learning Outcome**

- Basic Skills for Communication
- Mathematics
- Humanities
- Natural and Physical Sciences
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

### **Institutional Learning Outcomes**

- Communication
- Computation and Financial Literacy
- Critical Reasoning
- Technology and Information Literacy
- Community and Civic Responsibility
- Personal and Interpersonal Skills

### **TEXTBOOKS**

<http://kckccbookstore.com/>

### **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. The Nature of Religion
  - A. Psychological and emotional functions
  - B. Philosophical and intellectual functions
  - C. Cultural and social functions
- II. The Role of Religious Studies in an Educational Environment
  - A. Religious pluralism
  - B. Recent Supreme Court rulings pertaining to the educational role of studying about religion
  - C. Albanese: ordinary and extraordinary functions
- III. Six dimensions of studying world religions: Experiential, Mythic, Ritual, Doctrinal, Ethical, and Social
- IV. Experiential Dimensions
  - A. Types of religious experiences
  - B. Descriptions/interpretations of religious experiences
  - C. Religious experiences for a Hare Krishna devotee
  - D. Religious experience for a traditional Hindu
    1. Differences/similarities between Christian and Hindu groups
    2. Differences/similarities between Hare Krishna and Hindu groups
  - E. Religious experiences for a Buddhist devotee

1. The life of the Buddha
2. The four Noble Truths
3. The noble Eight-Fold Path
- F. The Religious Quest/Path of the Seeker
  1. Religion inside and outside religious organizations
  2. Three styles of religion
    - a. Belief style-aligned with organized religion
    - b. Communal style
    - c. Seeker style-both in/out of organized religion
- V. Mythic Dimensions
  - A. Myths and Truth
    1. Functions of myths
    2. Myths of alienation/loss of paradise
    3. Eschatological myths
  - B. The Mythic Dimension of Judaism
    1. Myth and rites of passage
    2. Myth and covenant
    3. Creation, liberation and giving of the law
  - C. The Mythic Dimension of Civil Religion
    1. Its functions in American society
    2. Principal features of rituals
    3. Types/roles of symbols
- VI. Ritual Dimension
  - A. Primal Religions
    1. Characteristics of primal religions
    2. Features of primal religion
      - a. Mana
      - b. Animism
      - c. Fetishism
    3. Ritual Techniques
      - a. Magic
      - b. Shamanism
      - c. Purification
      - d. Sacrifice
  - B. Difference between the monist and dualist perceptions of reality
  - C. Ritual in neo-pagan practices
  - D. Mind/body split in Western Culture
    - a. Christianity
      1. Key Christian beliefs/branches
      2. Roles of ritual within the Christian Community of faith
        - a. Roman Catholic
        - b. Eastern Orthodox
        - c. Protestantism
- VII. Doctrinal Dimension
  - A. Protestantism
    1. Doctrines and “boundary” questions

2. Faith, authority and doctrines
3. Functions of doctrine
4. Doctrines: static or dynamic in culture
- B. Conservative Christianity
  1. Fundamentalism in U.S. history
  2. Racism and religion
  3. Sexism and religion
  4. Religion, politics, and the Nation of Islam
- VIII. Ethical Dimension
  - A. The Ethical Process
    1. Ethical laws: law, customs, minds
    2. Ethics as patterns of action
    3. Difference between religious and secular ethics
  - B. Human and Environmental Rights
    1. The gospel of ecology and its ethical impact
    2. Religious overtones in the environmental Movement
  - C. Christian Science and the ethical dimension
- IX. Social Dimension
  - A. Dilemmas of Institutionalization
    1. The secularization process
    2. Religious ecology and the Institutional Church
  - B. New Religious Movements
    1. Secularization and religious organizations
    2. Types of religious organizations: church, denominations, sect, cult
    3. Baha'i World Faith
    4. New Age Religious
  - C. Far Eastern Religions
    1. Confucianism
      - a. Confucian values: Jen, Chun, Tzu, Li, Te, Wen
      - b. Relationships: East and West
      - c. Taoism and balance in life
  - D. New Visions
    1. Conventional and non-conventional religions
    2. Religious pluralism
  - E. Unitarian – Universalists as an inclusive world view
- X. Summary of course:
  - A. Review of major themes in course
  - B. Ninian Smart's six dimensions
  - C. Benefits/rewards for the course

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Identify principal texts, central religious figures and ideas of major world religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam
2. Demonstrate knowledge of beliefs, practices, and values of major world religions
3. Describe historical narratives and cultural expressions of major world religions
4. Analyze concepts and issues basic to the study of major world religions in a comparative framework
5. Explain the implications of beliefs and practices with respect to religions in a religiously diverse world
6. Evaluate definitions of religion.

## **ASSESSMENT OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES**

Student progress is evaluated through both formative and summative assessment methods. Specific details may be found in the instructor's course information document.

## **COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

*Student Handbook*

<https://www.kckcc.edu/files/docs/student-resources/student-handbook-and-code-of-conduct.pdf>

*College Catalog*

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/catalog/index.html>

*College Policies and Statements*

<https://www.kckcc.edu/about/policies-statements/index.html>

*Accessibility and Accommodations*

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/resources/student-accessibility-support-services/index.html>.