

SYLLABUS
COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS
PHIL 2610 / RELS 2610
YEAR: 2009

Prepared by Nebraska Transfer Initiative on Humanities

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03/31/2009



Date:

CIO Chair: 

5/1/09

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

PHIL 2610 OR RELS 2610

Comparative Religions; Introduction to Comparative Religion

Prerequisite: Reading/writing skills at ENGL 101 (or other basic English class required by a specific college, ENGL 1010) level or instructor's permission

This course will offer a cross-cultural introduction to the world's major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems through a comparison of historical origins, rituals, beliefs, practices worldviews, original religious texts, and other important sources. Interdisciplinary approach to study of religion and various approaches to study of religious systems are a part of the world religions traditions assessment.

3.0 semester credit hours; 3 lecture hours per week

4.5 quarter credit hours; 4 lecture hours per week

II. COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

- A. **GOALS/OBJECTIVES:** Through reading appropriate primary and secondary sources, engaging in class discussion and other acts of critical thinking, and completing relevant assignments, the student will:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the world's major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
 2. Read and analyze sacred texts and sources relevant to a variety of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
 3. Read and analyze works of recognized authorities relevant to a variety of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
 4. Respond to questions raised by readings and discussion.
 5. Demonstrate the ability to use appropriate terminology to discuss and cite source material in support of a critical opinion about assigned work.
 6. Recognize the significance and importance of the study of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems as they apply to people of all backgrounds and cultures.

- B. **COMPETENCIES:** At the end of the term, the student will be able to:
1. Recognize major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems of the world and the basic tenets of each.
 2. Examine each tradition or faith system's origins, texts/sources, different worldviews, and cultural expressions.
 3. Discuss religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems on a mature level.
 4. Critically analyze course materials that involve exposure to original texts or cultural influences of differing religions.
 5. Produce oral and written analyses which demonstrate critical thinking, reading, and writing.
 6. Use appropriate manuscript and/or research conventions as designated by the instructor.

III. **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Original texts relevant for religions of the world and other works as assigned by the instructor.

Suggested texts:

World Religions – Warren Matthews
The Major Religions – Patrick T. Burke
The Sacred Writings of the World's Great Religions – S.E. Frost, Jr.
Sociology and Religion – Andrew Greeley
Religions of the World – Lewis M. Hopfe
Religious Worlds, The Comparative Study of Religion – William Paden
The Religious World – Communities of Faith – Robert F. Weir
The World's Religions – Huston Smith
Anthology of World Scriptures – Robert E. VanVoorst
Living Religions – Mary Pat Fisher
An Anthology of Living Religions – Mary Pat fisher, Lee W. Bailey

- B. Supplemental hand-outs, audio/video materials and other resources supplied by the instructor.
- C. Outside reading/research as determined by the instructor.

IV. **COURSE OUTLINE** (Chronology may vary);

- A. Study and methods of religion/faith systems as an academic discipline
- B. Native American and/or Indigenous religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
- C. South Asian religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
- D. East Asian religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
- E. Western religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.

V. **SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Content and schedule determined by instructor.

VI. **METHOD OF PRESENTATION**

Instructors should make use of varied pedagogical techniques including, but not limited to, several of the following: lectures, discussions groups, collaborative projects, research, peer response, assigned writing, conferences, computer-assisted instruction, interactive/creative methods, multimedia, and field trips.

VII. **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

As determined by the instructor, course grades will be based on class and group participation, daily work, exams, presentations, projects, papers and/or a portfolio. The instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.