

## ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE SYLLABUS

## REL 201 COMPARATIVE WORLD RELIGIONS/GE

Credit Hours: 3 Lec 3

General Education Course: WI (Critical Inquiry, Writing Intensive)

H (Historical Awareness), G (Global Awareness), C (Cultural Awareness)

PREREQUISITE: ENG 101 or 107

THIS COURSE IS DESIGNATED AS WRITING INTENSIVE: Arizona Western College believes writing provides students a unique opportunity to learn disciplinary content while mastering writing skills. Writing-Intensive (WI) courses at Arizona Western College integrate writing assignments in ways that help students learn both the subject matter of the courses and discipline-specific ways of thinking and writing. Writing Intensive courses help develop students' identities as good writers by linking their writing proficiency with their desire to know more about the field of study, to engage in questions in the discipline, and to become a participant in academic discourse.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the historical origins and settings, central doctrines and practices, and cultural impact and significance of the major living religions. Primary topics include, but not limited to: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 articulate the broad features of religious systems as well as the methodological principles necessary to study religion as a cultural and historical phenomenon.
- 1.2 compare and contrast the broad worldview claims made by the major religious systems as well as how these claims result in and are supported by acts of religious expression (e.g., art, music, ritual, myth, architecture, etc.)
- 1.3 describe how the major religious systems originated and developed historically, drawing attention to the significant impact these systems have had on human civilization.
- 1.4 read some of the sacred literature associated with the major world religions with attention to employing proper exegetical and hermeneutical principles when interpreting and analyzing those texts.
- 1.5 demonstrate the value of a systematic study of religion for purposes of understanding and interpreting the institutions, values, conflicts, and cultures of the modern world.

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 recognize and explain conventional terminology and vocabulary used within the discipline (e.g., myth, cultic practice, holiness, piety, etc.)
- 2.2 interpret the meaning of sacred texts using principles of scholarly exegesis and literary analysis
- 2.3 explain the difference between substantive vs. functional definitions of religion
- 2.4 articulate the basic categories of phenomena that constitute religious systems (e.g., doctrinal, ethical, social, etc.) and explain the unique ways into which the various religions contain elements that exemplify those categories
- 2.5 compare and contrast the broad worldview and doctrinal claims of the major religions on the nature of ultimate reality, the human condition, and the purpose of human existence
- 2.6 construct a historical timeline of the major religious figures, movements, and schisms, demonstrating further the lasting legacy these persons and events have had on the development and trajectory both of those systems and on the broader cultures in which they are embedded.
- 2.7 identify distinctive ways in which practitioners of religion order their lives around and express devotion through a variety of mediums and practices (e.g., ritual, art, music, architecture, dance, creeds, holidays, etc.)
- 2.8 draw connections between the historical impact of religion and how this impact has served to

- 2.9 sculpt the values, laws, politics, economics, and philosophies of the modern world  
generate appropriate writing discourse according to the AWC Writing Intensive Courses: General Education guidelines

### WI OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.10 Demonstrate critical inquiry through the gathering, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence in writing.
- 2.11 Develop flexible strategies for generating ideas, revising, editing, and proofreading, using instructor and peer feedback on written discourse to guide improvement through revision.
- 2.12 Effectively compose discipline-specific writing, which includes overall organization, analysis, grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and style.
- 2.13 Develop strategies for composing both in class and out of class compositions.
- 2.14 Demonstrate through written discourse a sequence of increasing complexity/skill in knowledge of content as well as discipline specific discourse form.

### 3. AWC GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) OUTCOMES

#### 3.1 DIGITAL LITERACY

- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Create content in a digital environment

#### 3.2 COMMUNICATION

- Write effectively and intelligently for a range of purposes and audiences in the English language (e.g., informing, persuading, advancing an argument, expressing, creating, etc.)
- Read a wide range of texts across the curriculum, demonstrating comprehension through written and oral summary and analysis
- Utilize proper citations, evaluate critically, and use effectively relevant information for problem-solving and presentation of ideas, issues, and arguments
- Demonstrate skill in using electronic media generally appropriate to contemporary academic and professional workplaces
- Produce scholarly or creative works that effectively employ the communication conventions and means of the major field
- Provide writing that presents a clear, specific thesis and awareness of audience
- Fully develops examples to support thesis in logical, coherent manner demonstrates original thinking, depth of analysis, and comprehension of material used and that shows high proficiency in standard English grammar, spelling, and punctuation

#### 3.3 CIVIC DISCOURSE

- Describe historical, cultural, and political issues relevant in contemporary local, national, and global communities
- Analyze how such issues affect various local, national, and global regions, communities, and individuals

### 4. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 Class discussions
- 4.2 Lecture
- 4.3 Multimedia
- 4.4 Handouts
- 4.5 Text analysis

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Note taking
- 5.2 Classroom discussions
- 5.3 Written summaries on assigned readings
- 5.4 Presentations
- 5.5 Writing assignments totaling a minimum of 3000 words that include in-class essays, out of class assignments, and revisions based on instructor feedback

6. EVALUATION

- 6.1 Quizzes & Exams
- 6.2 Written Assignments
- 6.3 Oral Presentations
- 6.4 Participation
- 6.5 At least 33% of the student's grade in the course will be based on written discourse consisting of a minimum of 3000 words or about 12 pages of revised writing

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 7.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 7.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 7.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 7.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.