

IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

SURVEY OF WORLD RELIGIONS; REL-101-OL01

TERM: WINTER 2017

I. FACULTY INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Heter	Office: STU 1134
Phone: 636-699-9126	Office Hours: Skype by Appointment
E-mail: jheter@iwcc.edu	

II. COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Prefix/Number	Course Name	Credits	Lecture	Lab
REL-101-OL-01	Survey of World Religions	3	3	0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to World Religions provides insights into the nature of religious belief through the study of primitive religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity.

PREREQUISITES:

None

COURSE MEETING TIMES: Weekly online course attendance, interaction, and activity are expected and will be verified through weekly course attendance reports.

COURSE LOCATION: Remote

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

- *Experiencing the World's Religions, 6th Edition* - Michael Molloy (ISBN #: 9781121668157)

NOTE ON COMPUTER HARDWARE

Students are responsible for protecting their own computer equipment through use of anti-virus and anti-malware tools. IWCC students may consider [*these free options*](#).

Students are further responsible for working in their online courses within the IWCC Acceptable Use Policy and the Computer Ethics and Use Policy. (Both policies are located on the ROC Student Portal Page under the *Technology* menu button FAQ area.)

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND COURSE COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Comprehend the nature of religion and the basic aspects of the seven major living religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
 - 1.1 Understand the essential components of religion.
 - 1.2 Identify the universal problem and respective solution in each religious tradition.
 - 1.3 Define and distinguish between the fundamental concepts in religious discourse, such as: scripture, canon, authority, priest, prophet, and divinity.
 - 1.4 Discuss the basic concepts of physical vs. spiritual reality, knowledge, belief, and faith.
2. Correlate each of the seven major living religions with their respective historical developments.
 - 2.1 Identify the founding/founders of the religious traditions.
 - 2.2 Discuss the important factors/historical settings involved with their formation.
 - 2.3 Know the current dynamic of the individual traditions in the world today.
3. Serrate the major sects and denominations of the seven major living religions.
 - 3.1 Understand the basic concepts of tradition, sect, heresy, and denomination.
 - 3.2 Participate in discussions concerning the development and distinguishing beliefs of these sects.
 - 3.3 Develop tolerance for both traditional and non-traditional sects and denominations.
4. Distinguish the fundamental belief systems of the seven major living religions.
 - 4.1 Comprehend the nature of dogma, exclusivism, inclusivism, and pluralism.
 - 4.2 Explain the core doctrines of he religious traditions.
 - 4.3 Distinguish the respective beliefs of the major sects and denominations.
5. Master the subject of the religious writings of the seven major living religions.
 - 5.1 Discuss the basic concepts of scripture, canon, revelation, inspirations, and authority.
 - 5.2 Correlate the respective traditions with the development of the canons.
 - 5.3 Identify the processes and problems associated with religious writing, autographs, trajectories, and textual criticism.

COURSE PRACTICES:

Participation Requirements

Online courses require a clear pattern of participation for all students. The attendance standard for IWCC is that each student logs in and participates in some meaningful way, i.e. assignment completion, forum discussion, quiz completion, etc., inside of the online course—at a minimum—at least one time each week, as measured from Monday to Sunday.

Standards for written work

All written work (short essays and final term paper project) must adhere to the following standards: Papers are to be typed (on a computer) using a standard, common font. Papers are to be double-spaced and are to have 1" margins on all sides (Top, Bottom, Left, and Right). White paper and black ink is to be used on all papers. They are to be written in Microsoft Word. The student is to place his/her Name, Course Title, Paper Title, and Date left-aligned at the beginning of your paper. The body of your paper is to have each paragraph with a ½" first-line indent. No papers are to use cover pages. The above

directions are for the purpose of making your papers and essays more readable. Grading will be based 90% on content and 10% on readability.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit offered in the course.

ONLINE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOR:

It is expected that all students in the online environment address classmates and the instructor cordially and professionally. While debate and discussion may be the norm in a college classroom, doing so respectfully is the class standard. (I will address you in a way that recognizes the respect and dignity you deserve as a scholar at this institution, and I expect the same from you to each member of the course. This standard applies to all of us even during moments of disagreement.) Any violation of this policy could result in removal from the course.

COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR:

The best way to communicate with the instructor is through e-mail.

GRADING

Each Section of the Course contains 3 components.

- Quizzes (30%) - Each section of the course contains a quiz based on the material found in the reading from the textbook for that section.
- Essays (30%) - Each section of the course contains an brief essay based on a writing prompt given by the instructor.
- Discussions (30%) - Each section contains a discussion forum. For each section, **each student should author an original, substantive post, and reply twice to the posts of other students.**

In addition to the three primary sections of the course, each student will write two (brief) research based essays on the patriarch of a particular religion.

Final grades are viewable on ROC the Tuesday after the end of the semester: Self-Services Menu, Students, and Academic Record.

Grading Scale:

90-100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

0 - 59% = F

Important Dates

Please consult the Academic Calendar at lwcc.edu for all important dates.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION

If you have a conflict with me, concerns about my teaching and/or the course material, please discuss this first with me. If we cannot resolve the difficulty, contact Jenny Kruger, Dean of the Arts and Humanities Division: jkruger@iwcc.edu, 712-325-3326.

Notice of Campus Situations/Course Interruptions

1. Emergency closing of entire campus such as for weather – Students will be notified through the Reiver Alert system. Students must register for this service; find Reiver Alert on your ROC homepage.
2. Course Interruption – Students will be notified in the unlikely event that the ROC system would not be accessible for an extended period of time.

COURSE TOPICAL OUTLINE

- Section 1: Understanding Religion, Hinduism, Buddhism
- Section 2: Taoism, Judaism, Christianity
- Section 3: Islam, Alternative Paths

III. INFORMATION/COLLEGE POLICY

CYBER-LIBRARY

Students can access books, magazines, journals, newspapers, films and audio books 24/7 through the Cyber-Library by clicking on the Cyber Library under Academics in ROC.

Students can contact the library for assistance with research and citations. Check out our help features on the Cyber Library page in ROC.

For questions about finding information at your campus or center, email cyberlibrary@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3247 for the Council Bluffs Campus or 712-542-5117 for the Clarinda Campus. You can find the library hours posted on ROC.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

FREE tutoring and academic assistance are available through the Academic Support Center, located on the second floor of the Student Center on the Council Bluffs campus in a variety of core, general requirement classes. One-on-one assistance is available on a walk-in basis.

FREE online tutoring is available through Brainfuse on ROC. To access Brainfuse, locate Online Tutoring next to My ROC Classes.

For more information about tutoring services or help in your classes, email tutoring@iwcc.edu or call 712-388-6841. A full tutoring schedule is posted by subject area on ROC.

DROPPING CLASSES

While we encourage you to do everything you can to complete your classes, it is always better to drop a class than to fail it. If it becomes necessary for you to drop a class you can drop a class online through ROC up to the last day to drop. We recommend that you always talk to your advisor and financial aid before you drop a class. For more information on dropping classes see the Advising Information Site in ROC under the Academics tab.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To provide an environment conducive to learning, Iowa Western Community College requires that cellular phones, pagers, and other personal electronic devices be turned off or set to vibrate when entering classrooms, computer labs, library, offices, auditoriums, or arena areas. Cellular phones with picture taking capabilities are not allowed in bathrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Faculty members do have the right to prohibit the use of any electronic device in their classroom.

HONOR CODE – ACADEMIC HONESTY

Upon enrolling at Iowa Western Community College, each student assumes an obligation to conduct her/his academic affairs in a manner compatible with the standards of academic honesty established by the College and its faculty. If this obligation is neglected or ignored by the student, disciplinary action will be taken. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

FERPA

Student rights concerning access to educational records are spelled out in Federal Public Law 98-380 as amended by Public Law 93-568 and in regulations published by the Department of Education. The law and regulations require educational institutions to limit the disclosure of information from the student's record to those who have the student's written consent or to officials specifically permitted within the law. Students who wish to grant access to their educational (class schedule, transcript of final grades, and progress reports) or financial records (grants, loans, financial aid documents, statements and billing) may do so by submitting an Access to Student Information Consent Form to the Records and Registration Office. Access to information is only given at the Records and Registration Office or Financial Aid and Cashier Offices.

For more information, including the full Access to Student Information policy, refer to the Iowa Western Community College General Catalog or contact the Records and Registration Office.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

Iowa Western Community College values diversity and supports learning experiences that promote intellectual growth and human enrichment.

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:

If you are an individual with a disability who requires an accommodation to fully participate in academic programs or campus activities, please email disabilityservices@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3299.

Accommodations are arranged through the Disability Services Office, on the second floor of the Student Center on the Council Bluffs campus. Please allow adequate time to implement your accommodations.

Any student with mobility impairments should prepare for an emergency ahead of time by instructing faculty and/or classmates on how to assist in case of an evacuation.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

It is the policy of Iowa Western Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.).

Individuals having questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy should contact Kim Henry, Dean of Student Life and Student Success, phone number, 712/325-3207 or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, phone number 312/730-1560 fax, 312/730-1576.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-HARASSMENT

Iowa Western Community College is committed to a policy of equal educational opportunity. Therefore the College prohibits discrimination on the basis of unlawful criteria such as race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, genetic information, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, AIDS/HIV status, citizenship, or medical condition, as those terms are defined under applicable laws, in admitting students to its programs and facilities and in administering its admissions policies, educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs, and other institutionally administered programs or programs made available to students. In keeping with this policy of equal educational opportunity, the College is committed to creating and maintaining an atmosphere free from all forms of harassment.