

IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

REL-101-OL01: Survey of World Religions

TERM: Winterim 2020

I. FACULTY INFORMATION:

Instructor: Russell Tompkins, MDiv	Office: Home
Phone: 402-618-1608	Student Assistance Hours: By Appointment
E-mail: rtompkins@iwcc.edu	Students may email, call, or text the instructor and the instructor will answer within 24 hours.

II. COURSE INFORMATION:

REL 101	Survey of World Religions	Credits	Lecture	Lab
		3	3	0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Survey of World Religions provides insights into the nature of religious belief through the study of primitive religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Daoism, Navajo Religion, and Atheism. Note: This course meets the diversity requirement for graduation.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE MEETING TIMES:

Being an online class, the class will not have regular weekly meeting times. Students will be given weekly participation assignments and weekly online meetings with the instructor.

COURSE LOCATION:

Online

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Prothero, Stephen. *Religion Matters: An Introduction to the World's Religion*.
New York: W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 2020. ISBN: 9780393912852

Some, but not all, courses at Iowa Western require a subscription to an online textbook service such as Pearson MyLab or Cengage Unlimited. When this type of subscription service is required in a course, a flat fee is charged to the student's account when the student registers for the course. Students have the option to "opt-out" of this service within the first week of classes. By opting out,

the student is responsible to obtain the required course materials on their own from a source outside the College Store. For information on how to opt-out, students should contact the Brandon Keller in the Business Office at 712-325-3226 or bkeller@iwcc.edu.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

Students can download the free version of Office 365 Suite from their ROC Portal Page for use in their courses. Students are responsible for protecting their own computer equipment through use of anti-virus and anti-malware tools for work within their IWCC courses; they may consider [these free options](#) (click on link). Students using computers in labs and other facilities on campus are further held to the standards of [IWCC Acceptable Use Policy](#) and the [Computer Ethics and Use Policy](#). Both are located on the ROC Student Portal Page under the *Technology* menu button FAQ area.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COURSE COMPETENCIES:

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

- A. Examine the nature of religions and the basics aspects of the seven major world religions as well as Sikhism, Navajo Religion, and Atheism.
- B. Explore each of the seven major living religions with their respective historical developments
- C. Identify the major sects and denominations of the seven living religions
- D. Explore the fundamental belief systems of the seven major living religions
- E. Examine the religious writings of the seven major living religions

COURSE PRACTICES:

Attendance will be taken weekly through participation activities and assignments. All course work must be submitted through the ROC LMS. Emailed work will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

Attendance and Participation in Class

Attendance will be taken daily for your participation in class. I define participation as completing at least one assignment for the day completed in a substantive manner or an email to the instructor detailing the work you did for the class that day. Your attendance and participation are essential to your mastery of the material, and consequently, to the grade you can expect to earn. If you are unable to complete the participation requirement for any reason, it is your responsibility to get any handouts, assignments, and/or graded work that you might have missed.

Students should be prepared to discuss the readings scheduled. I expect you to be active participants in our discussion of the assigned reading, to pay

attention and listen attentively during class discussions, and be prepared to contribute to small group discussions. Be present to the class!

The best way to be an active participant in class is to become engaged in your own learning. This means that you should have read the textbook selections assigned, noting any confusing terms in the text, questions or comments that you might have about the reading. If you are having difficulty with the concepts in the text or ideas discussed in class, chances are that others are, too. So, please ask for clarification.

You will be given the opportunity – at least once a week – to participate in weekly class sessions live online. This opportunity gives you a chance to interact with other students as well as the instructor. It also gives you the chance to ask any questions for clarity. These online sessions are part of the required classroom participation.

I encourage you to exchange contact information with at least one or two other students who can provide notes or let you know any important information via e-mail should that become necessary. Most everything covered in class will be done via Canvas, so check there for any information you may have missed.

Attitude and Perspective

This course is different than a religion class you may have taken in a private school setting or in a church. The purpose of the class is not to indoctrinate you to believe a certain way or to convert you to a certain belief system. This class has the word “survey” in the title which means you will be learning about a variety of belief systems and religions that may be quite different from your own. You are likely to encounter views you do not agree with in this course, whether those are held by the authors we are studying, the instructor of the course, or fellow students. Challenging one another’s beliefs, and questioning our own, is central to the work we will do in class. Because of this, I expect students to treat one another with civility and respect.

Emergency Procedures

Please notify me via email as soon as possible should an emergency arise that interferes with your participation in the course. While accommodations can typically be made for legitimate emergencies, it is your responsibility to obtain any handouts, assignments, and/or graded work that you might have missed. Work or routine appointments that can be scheduled another time do not constitute an emergency.

Late Work

Unless you have a legitimate excuse, which is usually documented in writing or discussed with me in advance, I will not accept late assignments. Failure to complete assignments on time will result in a 0 for the assignment.

Makeup Testing

If things arise that cause you to miss a quiz or exam (such as technology glitches) contact the instructor as soon as possible via email and the instructor will decide how, and if, the quiz or exam can be made up.

Extra Credit

As a general rule, I do not make extra credit available to encourage students to put forth their best effort on course requirements. Students should not expect the opportunity to submit extra credit.

COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR:

The best way to contact me is via email: rtompkins@iwcc.edu. Please use your IWCC email when contacting me about matters related to the course. I will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 hours during the week (Monday through Friday), and 36 hours during the weekend. In most cases, I am able to respond much more quickly, especially during daytime hours (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.). I check email less frequently in the evening. Do not wait until the night before an assignment is due to ask me about it.

Note: I will not respond to emails that can be answered by this syllabus.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19:

Students in an online class may choose to meet with their instructor during student assistance hours on campus or at a center location. Faculty, staff, and students are expected to take reasonable precautions while in an office setting to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all parties. Whenever possible, students should stay a minimum of six feet apart from other parties. Where seats and standing room is designated off limits, students should respect boundaries. All parties (faculty, staff, and students) are required to supply their own face covering that they are required to wear at all times during a face-to-face meeting. Individuals who arrive to the meeting without a face covering will be turned away. Students exhibiting symptoms of illness will be asked to leave the office and not return until they are symptom-free or can provide a note from a physician clearing them to return. Students will also be asked to leave if they fail to comply with social distancing practices. Students who refuse to leave will be escorted out of the building by Security.

GRADING:

The following points can be earned on assignments and activities in class:

Reflection Papers -- 50 points each for papers due on December 7, 14, 21

Discussion Posts – 10 points each for posts due on December 2,3,5,9,10, 12, 16, 17, 19

Quizzes – 20 points each due on December 8, 15, 22

Emails to Instructor – 10 points each due on December 4, 11, 18

Zoom Group Meetings – 10 points each due on December 6, 13, 20

Reflection Papers

You will submit three (3) reflection papers. Each paper should be your thoughts on the chapter of the textbook you read as well as inclusion of concepts and ideas from the textbook chapter with proper citation. Specific instructions and expectations will be given to students prior to when the paper is due. The following is a brief description of each paper:

Due December 7 -- This paper will reflect on what has been learned in one of the following chapters -- Chapters 2, 3, or 4. This paper will focus on “Reflections on Religions of Release”. Students will reflect on what they have learned about Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism.

Due December 14 – This paper will reflect on what has been learned in one of the following chapters -- Chapters 5, 6, or 7. This paper will focus on “Reflections on Religions of Repair”. Students will reflect on what they have learned about Judaism, Christianity, or Islam.

Due December 21 – This paper will reflect on what has been learned in one of the following chapters -- Chapters 8, 9, or 10. This paper will focus on “Reflections on Religions of Reversion”. Students will reflect on what they have learned about Confucianism, Daoism, or Navajo Religion.

Discussion Posts

During each of the three weeks of class students will be required to answer a discussion question posed by the instructor in a post that is a minimum of 75 words. There will be three discussion board posts required each week as follows:

1. The first post of the week is to discuss in general the student’s knowledge of one of the three religions posed by the instructor and to select one of these three to study for the rest of the week. Based on the choices made by the students the instructor will place them in a group.
2. The second post of the week will be with the group the student is in (chosen by the instructor) to introduce themselves to the rest of the group and share information and/or knowledge of the religion chosen. Students will be encouraged to reply to other student’s posts.
3. The third discussion post will be the day after the chapter on the chosen religion has been read. This post will be with the rest of the

group members and the instructor. On this third discussion board post students are encouraged to reply to other student's posts.

Quizzes

There will be a quiz each week over the chapter that is assigned to the student by the instructor. Quizzes will be a combination of true/false and multiple choice. Quizzes on the chapter will be due no later than midnight of the last day of the week (December 8, 15, and 22). These will be open book quizzes that will be a 60 minute timed quiz.

Email to Instructor

Students will send the instructor an email at the end of the day on December 4, 11, and 18 verifying that they have read the selected chapter from the textbook assigned to them.

Zoom Group Meeting

These will occur on December 6, 13, and 20 with the instructor and the group selected by the instructor. The instructor will lead a discussion of the assigned chapter that has been read for the week by asking questions that all group members are expected to answer in the meeting.

Point Total Summary

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>POINTS POSSIBLE</u>
Reflection Papers (50 points each)	150
Discussion Posts (10 points each)	90
Quizzes (20 points each)	60
Emails to Instructor (10 pts each)	30
Zoom Group Meetings (10 pts each)	<u>30</u>
Total Points Possible	360

The total points possible will be divided into the points earned by the student to determine a percentage. The percentage will result in the final grade as listed below:

FINAL GRADE SCALE:

100-90: A / 89-80: B / 79-70: C / 69-60: D / 59 & Below: F

FINAL GRADES POSTED:

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

PROBLEM RESOLUTION:

Students with concerns about the course or the instruction are advised to discuss those concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the issue, the student should contact Dr. Jenny Kruger, Dean of Communication & Fine Arts, Stuart Hall 1150, (712) 325-3326, jkruger@iwcc.edu.

III. INFORMATION/COLLEGE POLICY

RESET PASSWORD:

Students can reset passwords by accessing the password central page through ROC. The password central page can be found by clicking the menu tab in the upper left hand corner and opening the technology tab, then clicking on password central.

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 may contact the library for assistance with research and citations. Check out the 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. The library hours are posted on ROC.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

FREE tutoring and academic assistance for a variety of core, general requirement classes are available through the Tutoring Center, located on the second floor of the Student Center on the Council Bluffs campus. One-on-one assistance is available on a drop-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 by subject area is posted 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 a financial aid department representative 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 education 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 education (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. Accommodation testing must be scheduled 24 hours in advance. 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.

PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS:

Iowa Western does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or related conditions. Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's doctor, and students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Students needing accommodations can seek assistance with accommodations from the Coordinator of Disability Services.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:

It is the policy of Iowa Western Community College to provide equal educational opportunities and not to discriminate on the basis of 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 its educational programs, activities, or employment practices.

Questions or complaints? Contact Title IX and Equal Opportunity Coordinator, Reanna Heim, or ADA Coordinator, Samantha Larson, equity@iwcc.edu, 712-325-3200, or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, (312)-730-1560, OCR.Chicago@ed.gov. More information at <https://www.iwcc.edu/about/statement.asp>.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2020 WINTERIM TERM

- September 23, 2020 Registration Begins
- November 2, 2020.....Textbooks Available For Purchase In The College Store
- November 23, 2020.....eCashier Deadline
- December 1, 2020..... Last Day To Add A Class
- December 2, 2020..... Last Day To Place Online Order For Textbooks
- December 2, 2020.....Classes Begin
- December 2, 2020.....Last Day To Drop Classes For A 100% Refund
- December 3, 2020.....Last Day To Drop Classes For A 50% Refund
- December 4, 2020..... Last Day To Return Textbooks For A Full Refund
- December 16, 2020.....Last Day To Drop Classes
- December 22, 2020.....Classes End
- December 21, 2020-January 1, 2021.....College Offices Closed
- January 25, 2021..... Payment Deadline

Other important dates can be found on the “Academic Calendar” in ROC.

IV. COURSE TOPICAL OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

The following schedule is intended as a guide to course activities. Course schedule and assignments are subject to change at the instructor's discretion due to the pace or quality of student learning, instructor illness, death in the instructor's family, weather conditions, etc.

Class Schedule (as of 9/11/20)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments/Activities
1	12/2	Introduction to Religions of Release – Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board post on choice of religion • Instructor will divide class into 3 groups and notify students
1	12/3	Each student will be assigned one of the following chapters – 2,3, or 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor will notify students of their groups • Discussion Board post to group including an agreement on when the Zoom Group meeting with instructor will be held
1	12/4	Student will be assigned the chapter on Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read either chapter 2, 3, or 4 • Send the instructor an email verifying that the chapter has been read
1	12/5	Same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board posts with group based on questions provided by the instructor. • Verify with group as to the time of the Zoom Group meeting
1	12/6	Same as above	Meet with group and instructor for Zoom Group meeting
1	12/7	Same as above	Finish Reflection Paper #1 and submit to instructor
1	12/8	Same as above	Complete quiz on assigned chapter for the week
2	12/9	Introduction to Religions of Repair – Judaism, Christianity, or Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board post on choice of religion • Instructor will divide class into 3 groups and notify students

2	12/10	Each student will be assigned one of the following chapters – 5, 6, or 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor will notify students of their groups • Discussion Board post to group including an agreement on when the Zoom Group meeting with instructor will be held
2	12/11	Student will be assigned the chapter on Judaism, Christianity, or Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read either chapter 5, 6, or 7 • Send the instructor an email verifying that the chapter has been read
2	12/12	Same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board posts with group based on questions provided by the instructor. • Verify with group as to the time of the Zoom Group meeting
2	12/13	Same as above	Meet with group and instructor for Zoom Group meeting
2	12/14	Same as above	Finish Reflection Paper #2 and submit to instructor
2	12/15	Same as above	Complete quiz on assigned chapter for the week
3	12/16	Introduction to Religions of Reversion – Confucianism, Daoism, Navajo Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board post on choice of religion • Instructor will divide class into 3 groups and notify students
3	12/17	Each student will be assigned one of the following chapters – 8, 9, or 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor will notify students of their groups • Discussion Board post to group including an agreement on when the Zoom Group meeting with instructor will be held
3	12/18	Student will be assigned the chapter on Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read either chapter 8, 9, or 10 • Send the instructor an email verifying that the chapter has been read
3	12/19	Same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board posts with group based on questions provided by the instructor. • Verify with group as to the time of the Zoom Group meeting

3	12/20	Same as above	Meet with group and instructor for Zoom Group meeting
3	12/21	Same as above	Finish Reflection Paper #3 and submit to instructor
3	12/22	Same as above	Complete quiz on assigned chapter for the week