

Master Syllabus

1. Course Information

College: College of Liberal Arts
Department: Religion
Course Title: Comparative Nonwestern Religions
Course Designation and Number: CST 232
GE Area(s): II: Cultural and social Foundations
The Non-Western World
VI: College Component

Writing Intensive: Yes No

For WI Courses: All sections Selected Sections are WI.

Method(s) of Instruction: Lecture
 Discussion
 Web-enhanced
 Web-only
 Other: Small group activities

Includes Lab: Yes No

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives

GE General Program Objectives:

...to sharpen critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills.

GE Area Two Objectives:

- a. Describe and analyze historical-social elements of nonwestern culture.
- b. Describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and individuals.

GE Area Six Objectives:

- a. Communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists.
- b. Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events and life endeavors.
- c. Meet objective (b) of GE Area One: develop logical and fair arguments, and observe appropriate writing conventions.

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

This course is deliberately structured to foster skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and interpersonal communications. Weekly assignments focus on close reading of a very diverse set of texts. A central purpose of this introductory class is to foster a sympathetic understanding of different ways of being-in-the-world. Class enrollment is limited to 40 students. The class includes discussion and less lecture and gives students the opportunity to freely express their views and sharpen their communications skills. Examinations test not only student knowledge of facts about nonwestern cultures but also student comprehension of differences between diverse cultures.

Area two learning outcome(s) addressed:

Describes and analyzes religious experience in nonwestern cultures.

Describes and analyzes the global interdependence of groups and individuals.

Area six learning outcome(s) addressed:

Communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists

Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors

For WI Courses: WAC Objectives

- Improves students' writing proficiency
- Uses as a tool for learning what one knows and does not know

Typically, instructors in CST 232 use the following kinds of assignments: essay questions on quizzes and examinations and/or formal critical papers. Some also use one or more of the following kinds of assignments: reading journals; in-class reading responses; electronic class discussion groups (through chat rooms or email); In all sections of CST 232, all or nearly all the course grade is based on written assignments. Students who cannot complete the writing-intensive portion of the course will not receive a C or better in the course grade.

3. Suggested Course Materials

Text(s): *Patterns of Religion* by Roger Schmidt

Excerpts from *Ways of Being Religions* by Gary E. Kessler, ed. (on line)
Excerpts from *Our Religions*, ed. Arvind Sharma (on line).

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation

Three tests and one paper. Giving students the option of revising their paper is required.

5. Grading Policy

All GE courses are graded A-F.

WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory.

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

Wk 1: Introductory remarks. Introduction to the Study of Religion.

What is Religion?

Three Expressions of Religion

Wk 2: Hinduism: Film
Hinduism: Origins
Hinduism: Moksha

Wk 3: Hinduism: *Dharma*.
Hinduism: Gods and Goddess

Wk 4: Bhatki
Hinduism: *darshan* and *puja*
Buddhism: Film

Wk 5: **EXAM I**
Buddhism: The Life of the Buddha
Buddhism: The Four Noble Truths

Wk 6: Buddhism: Theravada
Buddhism: Mahayana – Multiplying Buddhas and Bodhisattvas
Buddhism: Emptiness
Paper due

Wk 7: Chinese Religions: Film
Taoism: Lao Tzu and the Tao
Taoism: Chuang Tzu and Religious Taoism

Wk 8: Exam #2

Confucianism: Confucius' vision of society
Confucianism: *jen/ren, li* and Neo-Confucianism

Wk 9: Islam: Film
Islam: The Life of Muhammad
Islam: Five Pillars of Islam

Wk 10: Islam: Islamic worldview
Islam: Shiite Islam and Sufism
Revised paper due

7. **Other**

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy