



South Central College

# PHIL 105 World Religions

## Common Course Outline

### Course Information

<b>Description</b>	This course is a basic introduction to the major world religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It also explores related issues in the Philosophy of Religion. (Prerequisite: Must have a score of 78 or higher on Accuplacer reading comprehension test or completion of READ 0090.) MNTC 6, 8: Humanities and Fine Arts, Global Perspective.
<b>Total Credits</b>	4
<b>Total Hours</b>	64

### Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Classroom Presentation	4.00/64.00

### Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite	Prerequisite: Must have a score of 78 or higher on Accuplacer reading comprehension test or completion of READ 0090.
--------------	--

### Course Competencies

#### 1. Distinguish between "religion" and "philosophy."

##### Learning Objectives

Describe different dimensions of religion and identify specific examples of each.  
Explain the philosophical approach to assessing truth-claims.  
Identify differences between a philosophical approach to studying religion and explorations that occur within faith traditions.

#### 2. Explain the concept of a "worldview."

##### Linked External Standards

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

8d - Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

##### Learning Objectives

Describe what's meant by a "worldview" and how worldviews influence truth claims.  
Identify the eight worldview questions and provide examples of answers to each.  
Articulate one's own worldview and analyze how it impacts one's perception of other religious traditions.

#### 3. Identify the differences among Inclusionist, Exclusionist, Pluralist and Skeptical regarding religious diversity.

### **Linked External Standards**

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

### **Learning Objectives**

Define inclusivist, exclusivist, pluralist and skeptical perspectives on religions

Indicate the implication each view has for understanding world religions

Explain which perspective one holds and how that relates to one's broader worldview.

## **4. Examine the relationship between science and religion.**

### **Linked External Standards**

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

### **Learning Objectives**

Describe the difference between a scientific and religious approach to obtaining knowledge.

Identify possible ways in which science and religion can relate.

Articulate one's own view on the proper relationship between science and religion.

Explain the concepts of "miracles" and "religious experiences" and evaluate arguments for and against them.

## **5. Recognize the fundamental elements of the Hindu worldview.**

### **Linked External Standards**

6a - Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

6b - Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

6e - Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

### **Learning Objectives**

Summarize the general outline of Hindu history.

Identify the basic beliefs, doctrines and rituals of Hinduism.

Recognize the diversity of Hindu beliefs and practices.

Describe the "problem" which Hinduism addresses and the range of "solutions" it offers.

Evaluate the doctrines of karma and reincarnation and determine one's own view on their veracity.

Summarize the challenges and controversies facing contemporary Hinduism.

Explain the place of Hindus in the American religious landscape.

## **6. Recognize the fundamental elements of the Buddhist and Jain worldviews.**

### **Linked External Standards**

6a - Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

6b - Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

6e - Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

### **Learning Objectives**

Summarize the general outline of Buddhist and Jain history, including their relationship to Hinduism.

Identify the basic beliefs, doctrines and rituals of Buddhism and Jainism.

Recognize the diversity of Buddhist and Jain beliefs, practices and rituals.

Describe the "problems" which Buddhism and Jainism address and the range of "solutions" they offer.

Evaluate the doctrines of the Four Noble Truths and ahimsa and determine one's own view on their value.

Summarize the challenges and controversies facing contemporary Buddhism and Jainism.

Explain the place of Buddhists in the American religious landscape.

## **7. Recognize the fundamental elements of the Chinese religious worldview.**

### **Linked External Standards**

6a - Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

6b - Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

6e - Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

### **Learning Objectives**

Summarize the general outline of the religious history of China.

Identify the basic beliefs, doctrines and rituals of Confucianism, Taoism and Chinese Folk Religion.

Recognize the diversity of Chinese religious beliefs, practices and rituals.

Describe the "problems" which Confucianism, Taoism and Chinese Folk Religions address and the range of "solutions" they offer.

Evaluate the doctrines of filial piety and wu-wei and determine one's own view on their value.

Summarize the challenges and controversies facing contemporary Chinese religions, including restrictions imposed by the Communist Party.

## **8. Recognize the fundamental elements of the Sikh and Zoroastrian worldviews.**

### **Linked External Standards**

6a - Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

6b - Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

6e - Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

### **Learning Objectives**

Summarize the general outline of Sikh and Zoroastrian history.

Identify the basic beliefs, doctrines and rituals of Sikhism and Zoroastrianism.

Describe the "problems" which Sikhism and Zoroastrianism address and the range of "solutions" they offers.

Summarize the challenges and controversies facing contemporary Sikhs and Zoroastrians.

Evaluate the claim that Zoroastrianism had a substantial impact on the development of Jewish beliefs.

Explain the place of Sikhs in the American religious landscape.

## **9. Recognize the fundamental elements of the Jewish worldview.**

### **Linked External Standards**

6a - Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

6b - Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

6e - Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

### **Learning Objectives**

Summarize the general outline of Jewish history.

Identify the basic beliefs, doctrines and rituals of Judaism.

Recognize the diversity of Jewish beliefs, practices and rituals.

Describe the "problem" which Judaism addresses and the range of "solutions" it offers.

Evaluate the range of theological responses to the Holocaust.

Summarize the challenges and controversies facing contemporary Judaism, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Explain the place of Jews in the American religious landscape.

**10. Analyze the "Problem of Evil" which confronts ethical monotheists.**

**Learning Objectives**

Describe the theological problem entailed by the pervasiveness of suffering.  
Evaluate the range of theodicies which have been offered in an attempt to reconcile God and evil.  
Explain one's own view on the issue and how it relates to one's broader worldview.

**11. Recognize the fundamental elements of the Christian worldview.**

**Linked External Standards**

6a - Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

6b - Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

6e - Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

**Learning Objectives**

Summarize the general outline of Christian history.

Identify the basic beliefs, doctrines and rituals of Christianity.

Recognize the diversity of Christian beliefs, practices and rituals.

Describe the "problem" which Christianity addresses and the range of "solutions" it offers.

Evaluate the doctrines of the Trinity, Original Sin and Hell and determine one's own view on their veracity.

Summarize the challenges and controversies facing contemporary Christianity.

Explain the place of Christians in the American religious landscape.

**12. Examine the historical, legal and cultural aspects of church/state separation in the U.S.**

**Linked External Standards**

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

8c - Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.

**Learning Objectives**

Summarize the circumstances surrounding the passage of the First Amendment and subsequent court cases clarifying the relationship between church and state.

Distinguish between Enlightenment and biblical values and their relevance to the character of the U.S. Constitution.

Identify restrictions placed on religious expression in public schools (and other state institutions) and controversies involving these limits.

Evaluate the claim that Christians are subjected to marginalization and persecution in contemporary American society.

Evaluate the claim that the U.S. is a devoutly religious nation which uniquely displays Christian values.

**13. Recognize the fundamental elements of the Islamic worldview.**

**Linked External Standards**

6a - Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

6b - Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

6e - Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

8c - Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.

8d - Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

### **Learning Objectives**

Summarize the general outline of Islamic history.

Identify the basic beliefs, doctrines and rituals of Islam.

Recognize the diversity of Islamic beliefs and practices.

Describe the "problem" which Islam addresses and the range of "solutions" it offers.

Evaluate the claims that Islam promotes the oppression of women and encourages more violence than other faiths.

Explain the place of Muslims in the American religious landscape, including the effects of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim prejudice.

## **14. Describe the development of Atheism, Humanism and Fundamentalism.**

### **Linked External Standards**

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

8c - Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.

8d - Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

### **Learning Objectives**

Define Theism, Atheism and Agnosticism.

Evaluate the claim that Atheists are subjected to discrimination in contemporary American society.

Evaluate the main arguments that Atheists employ against religion.

Summarize the basic tenets and truth claims of Secular Humanism.

Describe the nature of Fundamentalism and identify both religious and non-religious examples of this phenomenon.

## **15. Examine the emergence and character of New Religious Movements.**

### **Linked External Standards**

6a - Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

6b - Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

6e - Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

### **Learning Objectives**

Identify the differences between "cults" and "New Religious Movements."

Summarize the categories of New Religious Movements, and identify an example of each.

Recognize the history and basic beliefs of Scientology and examine the controversy which surrounds it.

Recognize the history, basic beliefs and rituals of the Baha'i movement.

Recognize the history and basic beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormonism).

Evaluate controversies involving the Mormon Church: its view of dark-skinned people, treatment of women, practice and repudiation of polygamy, and status as a Christian sect.