



RELS 2300

World Religions (IG)

Course Syllabus

Fall 2024

Classroom: [REDACTED]
Schedule: [REDACTED]

Instructor: [REDACTED]
E-Mail: [REDACTED]@slcc.edu
Telephone: 801-957-[REDACTED]
Office: [REDACTED]
Office Hours: [REDACTED]

Course Description

This is an introduction to the diverse, dynamic & influential world religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, & Islam. The approach is global & comparative; each tradition is explored within the academic study of religion through its sacred literature, philosophy, art, history, rituals, & institutions giving special attention to the interrelated dynamics that shape human communities.

Credit Hours: 3

General Education Designation: International and Global - IG

Required Materials

Prothero, Stephen. *Religion Matters: An Introduction to the World's Religions*, 2nd Edition, W.W. Norton, 2024

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Articulate knowledgeably and respectfully about world religions and their core concepts.
2. Apply interdisciplinary and comparative methods to analyze world religions.
3. Examine sacred texts, history, and rituals, understanding their roles in facilitating power dynamics.
4. Develop critical thinking and communication skills through written reflections and discussions.
5. Recognize the impact of religion on individual, collective, and geopolitical identities.
6. Navigate cultural diversity, respecting and participating effectively with various religious communities.

- Use information resources to construct well-supported arguments, ethically synthesizing information in academic writing.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation

Participation is required in both online and in-person settings. Engagement in discussions, reflections, and course readings is essential.

2. Assignments

Assignments include reflections, discussions, and case studies that involve detailed analysis of each religion. These provide opportunities for students to apply comparative perspectives and engage with religious concepts critically.

3. Virtual/Personal Visits

Students are required to attend or observe services from both an "Eastern" and a "Western" religion, providing detailed analysis through structured reflections. Extra credit is available for in-person visits, which deepen the experiential understanding of religious practices.

4. Signature Assignment and ePortfolio Submission

Students complete a Signature Assignment, which includes reflective writing and will be uploaded to the SLCC ePortfolio to document learning progress.

Grading Breakdown

Component	Weight (%)
Personal Reflections	20%
Discussions	10%
Case Study Discussions	30%
Virtual/Personal Visits	30%
Signature Assignment & ePortfolio	10%
<i>Extra Credit: Possible through personal visits to religious services beyond those required.</i>	

Final Grade Distribution

A	A-	B+	B
100 to 94	<94 to 90	<90 to 87	<87 to 84
B-	C+	C	C-
<84 to 80	<80 to 77	<77 to 74	<74 to 70
D+	D	D-	E
<70 to 67	<67 to 64	<64 to 60	<60 to 0

Important Dates

Student Academic Calendar:

The “Student Academic Calendar” contains important dates including registration, tuition payments, holidays, and significant deadlines. Refer to the webpage for the most up-to-date information. [website link: <https://www.slcc.edu/academiccalendar/index.aspx>]

Final Exam Schedule:

The “Final Exam Schedule” lists information about when each course section will hold its final exam period. Refer to the webpage for the most up-to-date information. [website link: <https://www.slcc.edu/schedule/final-exam-schedule.aspx>]

Institutional Statements and Policies

General Education at SLCC:

This course fulfills the international and global requirement of the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed to teach you the core knowledge and skills of the discipline while also developing essential professional competencies and strategies for lifelong learning. General Education courses broaden your foundational skills and expand your understanding across diverse subjects. By integrating insights from various disciplines, you will learn to apply knowledge meaningfully, enrich your life, develop broader perspectives, deepen your understanding of the world, and challenge your assumptions.

E-Portfolios:

All General Education courses include a “Signature Assignment” that comprises part of each student’s e-Portfolio. For more information, see the statement about e-portfolios in Simple Syllabus.

Institutional Syllabus:

The “Institutional Syllabus” on Canvas includes important statements and information on a range of institutional policies, learning support and tutoring services, and student support resources. These sections provide guidance on student rights and responsibilities, grading policies, and various support services available to assist with academic advising, counseling, accessibility, student engagement, and more. For detailed information, please refer to the “Institutional Syllabus” on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments/Activities
1	Introduction to World Religions	Syllabus Quiz, Discussion on "What is Religion?"
2-3	Hinduism and Jainism	Hinduism Reflection, Case Study: Symbols
4-5	Buddhism and Sikhism	Buddhism Visit Reflection, Case Study on Peace
6-7	Judaism	Judaism Reflection, Visit Worksheet
8-9	Christianity	Christianity Reflection, Case Study: Minority Violence
10-11	Islam	Islam Visit Reflection, Discussion on Religious Symbolism
12-13	Atheism and Comparative Reflections	Atheism Reflection, Comparative Discussion
14-15	ePortfolio Preparation and Review	Review
16	Finals	Signature Assignment: Final Submission