

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

RELS 20503 World Religions

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A survey of the world's major religious traditions.

B. Additional Information - none

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Explain the unique contribution which Religion has made to civilization.
2. Identify the world's major religious traditions and their relationships to one another.
3. Describe the beliefs and practices which characterize the world's major religious traditions.
4. Compare and contrast the beliefs and practices of the world's major religious traditions.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will learn to analyze religious claims and practices.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will analyze moral dilemmas and problems that involve religious differences or conflicts.

Communication Skills

Students will further develop some of the conceptual and linguistic skills necessary to relate to individuals from differing religious backgrounds.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate the role which religion has had in shaping the culture in which they live and in fashioning other cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Introduction to the Study of World Religions
- B. Religions of the Past – Prehistoric Religion, Egyptian Religion, Greek Religion, etc.
- C. Folk Religions of the Present – African and Native American Religions
- D. Religions of India – Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism
- E. Religions of the Far East – Taoism/ Confucianism, Shintoism
- F. Religions of the Middle East – Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Baha'i
- G. Modern Religious Movements – Christian Science, Falun Gong, Scientology, etc.