

**Coffeyville Community College**

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**HUMN-208**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**FOR**  
**WORLD RELIGIONS**

**Mike Arpin**  
**Instructor**

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**COURSE NUMBER:** HUMN-208 **COURSE TITLE:** World Religions

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mike Arpin

**OFFICE LOCATION:** 119 Arts and Sciences Building

**OFFICE PHONE:** (620) 251-7700 ext. 2068

**HOME PHONE:** (620) 251-8287

**OFFICE HOURS:** See schedule posted on door

**OFFICE E-MAIL:** mikea@coffeyville.edu

**PREREQUISITE(S):** English Composition I

**REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:** *...isms Understanding Religion.* Theodore Gabriel, Ronald Geaves. 2007

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The World Religions course is a meaningful and thoughtful approach to the study of religions, relevant for humanities and cultural studies. The series explores modern religious practices and interpretations around the world: Buddhism, Judaism, Catholicism, Taoism, Zen, Islam, and others.

**EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:** The primary purpose of this course is to increase the student's awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the contemporary and classical theological theories and be able to find useful application of them in our human existence. Mastering of the concepts and applications of theology will be seen as a process of learning as the student establishes a connection with the proposed solutions of the intellectual problems presented for analysis and respective evaluation. Specifically, this course will help the student:

1. Understand the basic concepts and terms present in theological thinking, past and present.
2. Understand how theological thought is needed in everyday living to help solve ethical and relevant problems.
3. Recognize deeper meaning and value for a particular field of interest/ occupation.
4. Demonstrate research skills and writing proficiency utilizing library and other resources.
5. Describe and reconcile one's personal reasoning along with other theological and theoretical perspectives.
6. Express and utilize critical thinking and be more precise in communicating ideas creatively.
7. Identify and recognize the value of the fundamental theological arguments and methods of reasoning.
8. Realize the degree of diversity of thought existing throughout the world and appreciate the existence of different viewpoints.

#### **LEARNING TASKS & ACTIVITIES:**

1. Pretest: Broad evaluation of the fundamentals of Philosophy.
2. Reading, discussion, assigning questions/study guides, and testing of the following sections:  
 What is Religion?  
 Primal Religions  
 The Egyptians  
 The Greeks  
 Hinduism  
 Buddhism  
 Confucianism  
 Taoism  
 Islam  
 Judaism  
 Christianity  
 Jesus  
 Sex and Religion  
 History of Religion in America  
 Children and Religion  
 Cults  
 The Hereafter/Death  
 Religion and Politics  
 Culture and Religion
3. Post-test/Final Examination: Comprehensive evaluation of World Religions
4. Writing including class presentation
5. Reviewing and responding to theological situations

presented through audio and video formats by discussion and writing.

## **ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES:**

The student will be assessed in four areas:

- A. Cognitive: Knowledge and understanding of the materials presented in the text and supplements, classroom presentations, and personal research. Assessed by testing and by written and oral assignments related to objective content.
- B. Metacognitive: Each student will be required to show how he/she can incorporate and apply the cognitive aspects of the course material. Written and/or oral assignments will be given to evaluate areas of critical thinking, using open ended questions of a subjective nature.
- C. Affective: Each student will be expected to articulate his/her personal philosophical position on a selection of contemporary issues. Affirmation of one's viewpoint and the process of defining it will be measured by written, oral, and attitudinal performance.
- D. Performance: Attendance, completion of assignments, and group participation will represent student's commitment to the course goals.

## **GRADING POLICY:**

Each student is required to attend all class sessions. See attendance policy in the college catalog.

The student's grade will be based **solely** on the following point system. These will be through essay questions given during class. These can **only** be taken during the regular class period.

Based totally on points.

2,600-3,000 A  
2,400-2,599 B  
2,200-2,399 C  
2,100-2,199 D  
0 -2,099 F

\*Any **make-up** work must be done **prior** to the student missing class **and** before the next class meeting.

\*Only work missed from an excused absence will have the possibility to be made-up.

\*It is the student's sole responsibility to contact the instructor concerning missed and make-up work.

**RULES:**

The following behavior can result in lost points or dropped from the class.

- ANY cheating
- Use of cell phones (including incoming calls/sounds/vibrations....without permission of instructor)
- Text messaging (without permission of instructor)
- Use of laptops (without permission of instructor)
- Listening to music/headphone use during class
- Gum
- Sleeping
- Disruptive talking/behavior
- Use of red ink
- Not putting full name on assignments
- Leaving early
- Arriving late

**ATTENDANCE:**

Regular attendance, promptness, and preparation is important and expected for this class, as it should be with any commitment. Most of the experiential learning will take place in class, so class interaction is mandatory. Any special consideration due to personal circumstances will be negotiated based on degree and nature of absences. The instructor will decide with the student if it is necessary to drop the class due to irreversible loss of course study time and related circumstances. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of course work and related assignments at all times, particularly when class is missed.

\*Any student with more than six (6) unexcused absences will be dropped from the course.

**PLAGIARISM:**

It is expected that all work, both written and oral, is the original work of the student. When using someone else's words or ideas, be sure those thoughts are clearly cited and given appropriate credit as to the source. Plagiarism is a serious charge and may result in a failing grade.

**SPECIAL  
NOTES:**

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO EXTRA CREDIT SYSTEM OF ANY KIND.**

More detailed explanations of assignments will be provided at the appropriate time. This syllabus is subject to revision with prior notice to the student by the instructor.

## COMPETENCIES:

UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN BOTH AN INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE AS WELL AS THEIR SOCIAL SETTING
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1. Describe the psychology of religion in human existence. (Comprehension)
2. Describe the role of fear and a need for a concept of a God. (Comprehension)
3. Describe the aspect of the parent/child relationship in one's belief system (Analysis)

EXAMINE THE ARGUMENTS FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE
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1. What are the characteristics of a theist, atheist, and agnostic? (Knowledge)
2. What's the difference between faith and religion? (Comprehension)

UNDERSTAND THE QUALITIES OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR RELIGIONS
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1. Define religion. (Knowledge)
2. Define the specific tenants of each religion. (Knowledge)
3. Illustrate your belief or lack of belief in each religious system. (Application)
4. Describe the significance of attitude, behavior, and lifestyle on one's own individual religious beliefs. (Comprehensive)
5. Describe what theologians try to determine when presented with certain fundamental questions. (Analysis)
6. Determine if religious belief is up to us to understand as well as have free will and live by a particular theology. (Judgement)

UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN VARIOUS CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AND SECTS.
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1. Define the main tenants of Christianity. (Knowledge)
2. Define the main beliefs of Jesus. (Knowledge)
3. Define the historical context of Christianity and western culture. (Knowledge)
4. Define the role of Christian theology in America's past and current social, cultural and political systems. (Knowledge)
5. Illustrate the choices you have made in regards to your own involvement in Christianity. (Application)