



Course Syllabus

- COURSE NUMBER: PHIL225L Section EZZ

- COURSE TITLE/MODALITY: Comparative World Religions / Online Course

- CREDIT HOURS: 3

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- SEMESTER: Spring 2026

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- FACULTY NAME: Cathy Kubec, Ed.S., M.A.

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- E-MAIL ADDRESS: ckubec@ccsnh.edu

- OFFICE HOURS: By appointment on Zoom

- PRE-REQUISITES: None

- COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course examines the major “questions” or “issues” addressed by religion in general. It then examines major, representative systems of religious belief and practice, as well as their historical and sociological development. These religious systems are analyzed using a “world view outline” which addresses different aspects of religious belief and practice, such as the Absolute, the Human Problem, the Human Solution, Rituals, the Meaning of History, Life after Death, Community and Ethics, and Attitudes Toward Other Religions.

- TEXT/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

Textbook: *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1991,
ISBN 978-0-06-166018-4

- **GRADING:**

Grades will be based upon the following categories:

Discussion Boards	40%
Quiz	10%
Worldview Paper	15%
Comparative Analysis Paper	20%
Final Exam	15%

Grading Scale:

A 93-100	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-669
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62
B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Below 60

- **COURSE OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES:**

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

1. Discuss the historical and social context of the development of major religious systems.
2. Critically compare several representative religious belief systems.
3. Discuss major components of various religious practices and forms of worship.
4. Compare excerpts from important bodies of scripture and sacred stories.
5. Analyze various religions based on their worldview.
6. Identify and correct misconceptions about several major world religions.

- **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:**

- Lakes Region Community College does not discriminate in the administration of its admissions and educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, gender identity and expression, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or marital status. This statement is a reflection of the mission of the Community College System of New Hampshire and LRCC and refers to, but is not limited to, the provisions of the following laws:
 - Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - The Age Discrimination Act of 1967
 - Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972
 - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)
 - Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974
 - NH Law Against Discrimination (RSA 354-A)
 - NH Law RSA 188-F:3-a
 - Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008
 - LRCC degree, certificate, and career training programs are designed to meet the educational and workforce needs of the Lakes Region. Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities will be offered regardless of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status,

disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, or veteran status. LRCC reduces barriers to future career and educational opportunities for area residents by helping them upskill with general academic and technical education, as well as customized business and industry training. View the CTE program details at LRCC.edu.

Inquiries regarding discrimination may be directed to Laura LeMien, Associate Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator, at LLeMien@ccsnh.edu

It is my hope that this course meets your every expectation as a challenging, engaging, and respectful learning experience. If you find this not to be the case, I will welcome the opportunity to address your concerns. This is not only a courtesy; it is a matter of process and procedure. Should we fail to arrive at a mutually satisfactory understanding, you should take the matter to my immediate supervisor, Stephen Freeborn, at SFreeborn@ccsnh.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Course Week	Topics	Textbook Readings *	Due Dates	Course Outcome
Jan 20 - 24	1	Understanding Religion		Personal Introductions due by 1/24	
Jan 25 - 31	2	Religions of Antiquity			
Feb 1 -7	3	Hinduism and Sikhism	Smith, Ch. II		
Feb 8 - 14	4	Buddhism and Shintoism	Smith, Ch. III	Discussion Board (DB) #1 Initial Post to Thread due by 2/10 Reply to 2 classmates due by 2/14	#1
Feb 15 - 21	5	Confucianism	Smith, Ch. IV		
Feb 22 - 28	6	Taoism	Smith, Ch. V	Quiz – take between 2/25- 2/28	#1, #2
Mar 1 - 7	7	Judaism	Smith, Ch. VII	SUBMIT WORLDVIEW PAPER by 11:59 pm on SAT. 3/7	#5
Mar 8 - 14	8	Judaism (continued)		Discussion Board (DB) #2 Initial Post to Thread due by 3/11 Reply to 2 classmates due by 3/14	#3, #4
Mar 15 - 21	9	Happy Spring Break --No Classes--			
Mar 22 – 28	10	Christianity	Smith, Ch. VIII		
Mar 29 – Apr 4	11	Christianity (continued)		Discussion Board (DB) #3 Initial Post to Thread due by 4/1 Reply to 2 classmates due by 4/4	#3, #4

Apr 5 – 11	12	Islam	Smith, Ch. VI		
Apr 12 - 18	13	Islam (continued)		Discussion Board (DB) #4 Initial Post to Thread due by 4/15 Reply to 2 classmates due by 4/18	#2
Apr 19 - 25	14	Common Myths about Various World Religions		COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PAPER DUE by SAT. 4/25	#3, #5
Apr 26 - May 2	15	Religion in Today's World		Discussion Board (DB) #5 Initial Post to Thread due by 4/29 Reply to 2 classmates due by 5/2	#6
May 3 - May 8	16	Course Conclusion and Final Exam		SUBMIT FINAL EXAM by 11:59 pm on FRIDAY, May 8th	All 6 course outcomes

*Textbook reading assignments are shown on this page and in the modules, but there are also frequently links to additional reading assignments. These links are provided in the respective modules in Canvas.

If any updates or revisions are needed to this schedule, they will be posted in the Canvas Modules. Please refer to the Canvas Modules for all due dates.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

- **CANVAS AND EMAIL**

Since this is a fully online class, students are expected to regularly check Canvas and their college email. If I communicate with you by email, it will be using your college email address. All work should be submitted via Canvas. If you are having trouble with Canvas, contact me as soon as possible.

- **DISCUSSION BOARDS**

There will be a total of 5 required Discussion Board (DB) assignments during this course. Each of the discussions will be worth up to 50 points each (30 points for your initial response to the thread and up to 10 points each for your reply to two other students' posts, for an additional total of up to 20 points.) Your response to the instructor's question should be posted by 11:59 pm on Wednesday night of that module, and your reply to two other students' posts must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the Saturday night of the module that the discussion board topic is assigned. You will be graded according to the rubric provided in Canvas. Remember: you must respond to the instructor's question and then give substantive feedback on two other classmates' posts. More information on the discussions will be posted under the weekly modules on Canvas.

- **WORLDVIEW PAPER**

In this paper you will research and explain how having a better understanding of multiple religions might affect one's "worldview." This is to be a scholarly paper in which you are to address the following:

1. Begin your paper by defining the term "Worldview"
2. Discuss the development of a person's moral and ethical code, including what role, if any, religious beliefs play in forming that code.
3. Describe how a person arrives at their beliefs about the existence of God or gods, heaven, hell, reincarnation, etc.
4. Discuss whether a better understanding of different religions might decrease the amount of prejudice exhibited in society. If so, how? If not, why not?

Additional information regarding this assignment will be provided in Canvas.

- **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PAPER**

In this paper you will choose from a list of topics provided (or you may suggest a different topic of your choice) in which you will compare and/or analyze concepts and practices among various major world religions. Additional information regarding this assignment will be provided in Canvas.

DUE DATES AND MAKEUP/LATE WORK

Students are expected to turn in assigned work on time. Unexcused late submission of an assignment is subject to a reduction in points, and may result in zero points, depending on the assignment. To request an extended deadline, you MUST submit a written (email) request before the due date and be given written (email) permission by the instructor. See Canvas for details.

- **ACADEMIC HONESTY REMINDER**

Please remember that plagiarism, as well as the use of AI to generate any portion of the content of your work is considered academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the submission. Assignments in this course will generally be submitted for review by plagiarism detection software.

- **NEED HELP?**

Students sometimes need additional help in understanding course materials or assignments. Providing help is part of an instructor's responsibility. Please contact me as soon as possible at ckubec@ccsnh.edu if you need additional guidance, clarification, or are otherwise having trouble being successful in the course. You can generally expect a reply to your email within 24 hours, and we can set up a Zoom appointment if necessary. If you have not heard back from me after 24 hours, please resend your email!