

Montgomery County Community College
 PHI 215
 Comparative Religions
 3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination and study of the historical backgrounds and present-day vitality of the major living religions of the world. Special attention will be focused on the study of the ideas and cultic and ethnical practices, and philosophical systems of: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Islam, Confucianism, Shintoism, Taoism.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

None

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Explain the primary differences and similarities between various religious and ethical systems of the World and the Orient, so as to become cognizant of their influences on the religions of the Occident.	Lecture Class Discussions Reading Primary and Secondary Sources	Tests Quizzes
2. Explain the impact of these religions/systems on one another.	Lecture Class Discussions Reading Primary and Secondary Sources	Tests Quizzes
3. Explain the theses that show themselves in the major written works of various traditions, which works include the Upanishads, Rig Veda, Koran, Confucius, Bible, etc.	Lecture Class Discussions Reading Primary and Secondary Sources	Tests Quizzes

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Explain the religio-centric tendencies that can result from religious perspectives, and to explain how these tendencies can affect (and have affected) interaction with traditions other than one's own. Special attention will be paid to the impact of "western" religions on western views of the East.	Lecture Class Discussions Reading Primary and Secondary Sources	Tests Quizzes
5. Explain the student's own religious/non-religious perspective by comparing and contrasting, in an informed way, this perspective with the dominant world perspectives.	Lecture Class Discussions Reading Primary and Secondary Sources	Tests Quizzes

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. On Being Students of Religion
2. Religion in Various Cultures
3. The Beginnings of Indian Religion
4. Mahavira and Jainism
5. Buddha and Early Buddhism
6. Hinduism
7. Sikhism
8. Chinese Religion
9. Japanese Religion
10. Zoroastrianism
11. Biblical Sources of Monotheism
12. Judaism
13. Jesus and Christian Origins
14. Islam

15. Roman Catholicism and the Middle Ages
16. The Reformation and Protestantism
17. Modern Criticism of Religion
18. Traditional Faiths and the Human Future

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Matthews, R. (January 2012). *World Religions* (7th ed.). Wadsworth Publishing.
 [Text may vary with instructor]

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Thomas Snowdon	Date: 1985
Reviewed by: Bernard Mangiaracina	Date: 9/1998
Revised by: Benjamin F. Armstrong, Jr.	Date: 5/2004
Revised by: Benjamin F. Armstrong, Jr.	Date: 2/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 2/1/2013
Revised by: Benjamin F. Armstrong, Jr.	Date: 12/16/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 12/18/2017



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.