

# Syllabus

## PHIL2610/RELS2610 Comparative Religions

2015

### Committee Members:

Steve Reiter, Central Community College  
Janet McCarthy, Metropolitan Community College  
Bob Allen, Mid-Plains Community College  
Pam Saalfeld, Northeast Community College  
Leo Iacono, Southeast Community College

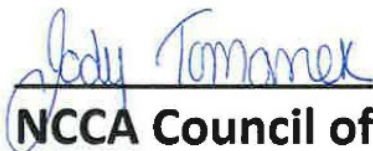


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**Facilitator**

Date Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

1-23-15



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**NCCA Council of Chief Academic Officers Chair**

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

3-20-15

## **I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

PHIL 2610 OR RELS 2610

Comparative Religions

Prerequisite: Placement scores equivalent to English 1010 or by instructor's permission

This course will offer a cross-cultural introduction to the world's major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems through a comparison of historical origins, rituals, beliefs, practices, worldviews, original religious texts, and other important sources. Interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion and various approaches to the study of religious systems.

3.0 semester credit hours/4.5 quarter credit hours/45 contact hours

## **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:***

1. Explore knowledge of the world's major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
2. Survey sacred texts and sources relevant to a variety of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
3. Examine works of recognized authorities relevant to a variety of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
4. Examine questions raised by readings and discussion. .
5. Utilize appropriate terminology to discuss and cite source material to support critical opinions about assigned work.
6. Differentiate religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems as they apply to people of all backgrounds and cultures.

**III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: *Students will be able to:***

1. Distinguish the major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems of the world and the basic tenets of each.
2. Examine each tradition or faith system's origins, texts/sources, different worldviews, and cultural expressions.
3. Discuss religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems in a mature manner.
4. Analyze course materials that involve exposure to original texts or cultural influences of differing religions.
5. Develop oral and written analyses which demonstrate critical thinking, reading, and writing.
6. Use appropriate manuscript and/or research conventions.

**IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (Chronology may vary):**

1. Study and methods of religion/faith systems as an academic discipline
2. Native American and/or Indigenous religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
3. South Asian religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
4. East Asian religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
5. Western religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.

**V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (*suggested texts*)**

Original texts relevant for religions of the world and other works as assigned by the instructor.

**1. Suggested Texts (latest edition of those listed below)**

- a. The Major Religions – Patrick T. Burke
- b. Exploring the World's Religions. Fifth Edition. Molloy, Michael.
- c. Religions of the World – Lewis M. Hopfe

- d. The World's Religions – Huston Smith
  - e. Living Religions – Mary Pat Fisher
  - f. Invitation to World Religions – Jeffery Brodd, Layne Little, et al.
2. Supplemental hand-outs, audio/video materials and other resources supplied by the instructor.
  3. Outside reading/research as determined by the instructor.

## **VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION**

Instructors should make use of varied pedagogical techniques including, but not limited to, several of the following: lectures, discussions groups, collaborative projects, research, peer response, assigned writing, conferences, computer-assisted instruction, interactive/creative methods, multimedia, guest speakers, and field trips.

## **VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION**

As determined by the instructor, course grades will be based on attendance, class and group participation, daily work, exams, quizzes, presentations, projects, papers and/or a portfolio. The instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.

## **VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION**

*(To be used at the discretion of each community college as deemed necessary)*