SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
CITY, MESA, AND MIRAMAR COLLEGES
ASSOCIATE DEGREE COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION I

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER: Humanities 106

COURSE TITLE: World Religions Units: 3

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the basic elements of the religions of the world, their similarities and
differences, and their impact on believers and society. The course includes a study of the historical
development, doctrines, rituals, sects, and scriptures of the major religions of the world. Some analysis
of ancient religious traditions and tribal religious beliefs and practices may be included. This course is
intended for all students interested in humanities and the study of world religions.

REQUISITES:

Advisory:
ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent or Assessment Skill Level W6/R6

FIELD TRIP REQUIREMENTS: May be required

TRANSFER APPLICABILITY: Associate Degree Credit & transfer to CSU and/or private colleges and
universities CSU General Education IGETC UC Transfer Course List

TOTAL LECTURE HOURS: 48 - 54

TOTAL LAB HOURS:

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Recognize the basic elements of religious belief and practice.
2. Identify and analyze the primary concepts and practices of the tribal religions of the world.
3. Evaluate the influence of ancient religious traditions on modern world religions.
4. Identify and analyze the history, doctrines, rituals, sects, and scriptures of the major religions of the
world.
5. Compare and contrast the doctrines and practices of the major world religions.
6. Evaluate the impact of religion on individuals and society.

SECTION II

1. COURSE OUTLINE AND SCOPE:

A. Outline Of Topics:
The following topics are included in the framework of the course but are not intended as limits on
content. The order of presentation and relative emphasis will vary with each instructor.
I. Elements of Religious Belief and Practice
   A. Doctrine
   B. Ritual
   C. Sects
   D. Scripture

II. Tribal Religious Traditions
   A. Australia and Oceania
   B. Africa
   C. The Americas

III. Religions of the Ancient World
   A. Mesopotamia
   B. Egypt
   C. Greece and Rome

IV. Important Religions of the Modern World
   A. South Asian Traditions
      1. Hinduism
      2. Buddhism
      3. Jainism
      4. Sikhism
   B. East Asian Traditions
      1. Daoism
      2. Confucianism
      3. Shinto
   C. Middle Eastern and European Traditions
      1. Judaism
      2. Zoroastrianism
      3. Christianity
      4. Islam

V. Religious Parallels
   A. Comparison of Religious Beliefs and Practices
   B. Contrast of Religious Beliefs and Practices

VI. Impact of Religion in the World
   A. Influences on the Individual
   B. Influences on Society
B. **Appropriate Assignments that Demonstrate Critical Thinking:**

Critical thinking assignments are required and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

I. Compare/Contrast a doctrine from one religion (ex. the afterlife) to that from another religion.
II. Interpret a passage from religious scripture in both traditional and comparative senses.
III. Analyze how a particular religious belief influences individual and/or social behavior.
IV. Evaluate how an ancient civilizations influenced the development of modern religions.

C. **Reading Assignments:**

Reading assignments are required and may include but, are not limited to, the following:

I. Textbooks on world religions.
II. Religious scripture in translation (ex. Daodejing, Bhagavad-Gita, Quran, Dhammapada, Tanakh, Bible)
III. Articles from journals and magazines, such as:
   A. Christianity Today
   B. Journal of the American Academy of Religion
IV. Articles on religion in daily newspapers,
   A. The San Diego Union Tribune
   B. Los Angeles Times

D. **Writing Assignments:**

Writing assignments are required and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

I. Essays comparing one religion to another.
II. Summaries and analyses of doctrinal disputes within one religion.
III. Reviews of scholarly articles on religious topics.
IV. Evaluative papers requiring outside reading in literature from religious organizations.
V. Journals providing summary, analysis, and evaluation of religious scriptures.

E. **Appropriate Outside Assignments:**

Outside assignments may include, but are not limited to, the following:

I. Reading and writing assignments on religious topics.
II. Library and computer accessed research in religious belief and practice.
III. Viewing of assigned/recommended media materials such as films on religious themes.
IV. Observation of religious practices at local religious centers.
V. Reviews of scholarly articles on religion.
VI. Interviews of religious leaders and/or followers.

2. **METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

A student's grade will be based on multiple measures of performance unless the course requires no grade. Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

I. In class quizzes that show students' recognition of major doctrinal concepts.
II. Out of class writing assignments that require student analysis of religious ideas and practices and/or comparison of such concepts and practices across religions.
III. In class examinations which test students' ability to analyze and compare religious ideas and practices.
IV. Supplementary exercises requiring student reporting and evaluation of actual religious worship, in person or through video presentation.

3. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Methods of instruction may include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Lecture
4. REQUIRED TEXTS AND SUPPLIES:
Textbooks may include, but are not limited to:

TEXTBOOKS:

MANUALS:

PERIODICALS:

SOFTWARE:

SUPPLIES:

ORIGINATOR: Bruce Naschak

CO-CONTRIBUTOR(S)
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