

World Religions

REL 2300

Professor William Colachicco

Professor: William Colachicco

Email: WColachicco@valenciacollege.edu

Website: (Canvas)

Classes: (online)

Office: (contact via email for meetings)

Office Hours: (By Appointment)

TEXT: *Invitation to World Religions* by Jeffrey Brodd and Layne Little.
Published by Oxford University Press. (2nd edition or 3rd edition)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Designed for students interested in exploring various ways people have expressed religious views. Explores questions that lead people to formulate religious answers and various religious doctrines that formalize human concerns. Balances different opinions from major religious traditions such as Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism, among others, and helps students broaden perspectives on religion. Gordon Rule course which requires demonstration of college level writing skills through multiple assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

PREREQUISITE: ENC 1101 (Freshman Composition I) or ENC 1101H or IDH 1110.

NOTE: ANY student found to lack this prerequisite may be withdrawn from the course without credit or tuition refund if after drop/add period.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To provide opportunities for student growth in these VSC competencies: 1) Think critically and make reasoned choices by acquiring, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating knowledge; 2) read and write effectively; 3) clarify personal values and goals in relation to cultural values; 4) recognize the value of aesthetics and learn to make aesthetic judgments.

To provide reinforcement in these CLAST competencies: 1) Literal and critical reading comprehension; 2) such essay skills as select a subject, formulate a thesis, provide supporting details, revise for clarity and uniformity; 3) writing skills such as sentence structure and punctuation. (See blackboard for additional detailed course objectives.)

PREPARATION and PROCEDURES: Weekly readings are required and essential. Quizzes will be given on all the readings. Students should be prepared and take notes on the course readings. Do the readings, take great notes, and work on the current module every week, and you will most likely do very well in this class.

E-mail will be our primary method of communication outside of class. E-mail me through regular E-mail, or through Canvas; Include your name and which class/time you are in. Communicate with the professor anytime there is a question or issue, but read the syllabus first to see if your question is answered here. **Quiz questions and answers will come from readings and provided online materials so log in to Canvas and work on the current module multiple times a week.**

Gordon Rule Requirements: This course requires the student to write multiple college level writing assignments. Completion with a final grade of “C” or better will partially satisfy the requirements of State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.30. **Failure to complete ANY PORTION of the Gordon Rule Requirement will incur a grade of “D” or lower, no matter the student’s previous average.**

Attendance Counts –

Students must log in to Canvas and work multiple times per week. As long as the student can provide legitimate documentation for their absences, they can make up all missed work. Such documentation must be turned in within one week of the absence or the absence will be unexcused. Documented excused absences may include hospital stays, doctor’s notes, funerals for family or close friends, car accidents, etc. Notes from roommates, significant others, parents or work will not count as legitimate documentation.

[Oversleeping, work schedule conflict, lack of preparation and so forth do not qualify as excused absences. Students should arrange their work schedules so that they do not conflict with their school schedules.]

Assignment and Paper deadlines can NOT be made up. They are set in stone. Only in the most extreme life-or-death situations will exceptions be made.

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as necessary; accordingly, **no exceptions will be made for students who are unaware of changes because of negligence or procrastination.**

Course Components

The course progresses through 6 different modules corresponding to chapters in the course textbook. You will need to read the chapter in the textbook corresponding to each module. In addition to quizzes and writings on the chapter readings, each module consists of videos and assignments on topics centering on that respective religious tradition.

Weekly Quizzes: Quizzes will be given in each module on the readings.

Lecture\Video Write Ups: Each module will contain lecture videos and other educational films which you will take notes on, summarize, and give your personal thoughts on.

Guided Reflection Papers:

Students will write short guided reflection papers primarily about the chapters in the course textbook. Each module will contain instructions for these reflection papers.

GRADING:

Grades in the course will be determined by a point system. If you earn 450 or more points, you have an A.

Breakdown of Total Point Values

Indigenous Traditions Module --- /85

Hinduism Module --- /85

Buddhism Module --- /85

Judaism Module --- /85

Christianity Module --- /85

Islam Module --- /85

FINAL GRADE --- /510+

Final Course Grades: Individual grades and final course grades are not “curved”; Although, several “extra credit” opportunities will be given. The final grade each student receives is the sum of grades that are earned on the assignments, quizzes, modules, and papers:

A = 90-100% (450-510 or more points)

B = 80-89% (398-449 points)

C = 70-79% (348-397 points)

D = 60-69% (298-347 points)

F = below 60% (<298 points)

WITHDRAWAL: If you wish to withdrawal, you must do so before the withdrawal deadline. Students may not withdraw after this date.

STUDENT CONDUCT: *Valencia College is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning as well as the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and*

abiding by the general rules of conduct. For further detail, refer to the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

Classroom Behavior:

Valencia College is dedicated to promoting honorable personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the rules articulated in the Student Code of Conduct (6Hx28:10-03). The instructor reserves the right to refer students who engage in activities that are disruptive to the learning environment to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. The following list, though not exhaustive, includes things which are disruptive to the learning environment:

- Use of any electronic devices including but not restricted to: Cell phones, iPods, etc.
- Preparing work for other courses during class.
- Engaging in private conversations with classmates while class is in session.
- Excessive tardiness

In addition, Valencia College strives to provide a drug-free learning environment for all those involved in the academic experience. Our policy is as follows:

Policy: In compliance with the provisions of the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, Valencia College will take such steps as are necessary in order to adopt and implement a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by Valencia College students or employees on college premises or as part of any college activity.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor. These penalties may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project; reduction in the course grade; or a grade of "F" in the course. For further detail, refer to the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

*** This syllabus may be altered at the instructor's discretion, during the course of the semester. Students are responsible for informing themselves of changes announced in class.**

NOTE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Please schedule a conference with the instructor so that we can arrange assignments or testing to assure your best chance to succeed in this course.