# REL 2300

World Religions

Spring 2017 CRN 23940 ONLINE 3 credit hours *Instructor*: Dr. Anthony Robinson *E-­‐mail*: [arobinson100@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:arobinson100@valenciacollege.edu) *Phone:* (407) 608-­0134 *E-­‐mail hours:* M/W 10:00 am-­‐12:00 pm, T/Th 11:00 AM-­‐2:00 PM

## Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENC 1101 or ENC 1101H or IDH 1110. 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.

## Required Textbooks

World Religions, Warren Matthews 7th Edition All other readings will be available in Blackboard

## Course Requirements

1. *Adequate preparation.* Students should expect to spend a **minimum** of six to eight hours a week completing the requirements for this class (including readings, quizzes, discussions, and consistent review of the course material).
2. *Participation*. This is an online class. Your success will depend on your prompt completion of assigned readings and online activities, including discussions. **Failure to post to the discussion boards during the first week will result in your withdrawal as a “no-­‐show.”**
3. *Internet access*. Because the course content will be delivered via Blackboard, all students must have reliable access to the Internet. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly for course updates.
4. *Exams*. There will be three exams. The deadline dates for these exams are listed on the Course Outline. Exams 1 and 3 may be taken as open-­‐book tests at home; Exam 2 must be taken in one of Valencia’s Testing Centers (no books or notes allowed).
5. *Quizzes*. There will be a quiz on each reading. These quizzes will be administered in Blackboard and can be taken at home on an open-­‐book, open-­‐notes basis.
6. *Discussions*. Each student will participate in the discussion boards by making original posts, reading classmates’

posts, and commenting on posts, as assigned. Your overall discussion grade will reflect the percentage of discussions completed satisfactorily.

1. *One-­‐Page Papers*. Each student will write two one-­‐page papers (a third paper is optional and will allow one grade to be dropped). See “Guidelines for Writing Assignments,” below.
2. *Formal Essay*. Each student will write a formal essay on an approved topic. A Religious Visit Questionnaire and accompanying report may be completed in lieu of the formal essay. See “Guidelines for Writing Assignments,” below.

Selected Learning Outcomes

After completing REL 2300, students will be able to:

explain important concepts in religion, such as myth, ritual, and sacred space.

understand the cultural and historical relationships between individual religious traditions and their respective “families” (e.g., religions of Indian origin, Abrahamic religions, etc.).

identify the founders of and major historical contributors to the world’s religions. demonstrate their understanding of differing concepts of deity.

compare and contrast the divisions within religious traditions (e.g., Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism, Protestant and Catholic Christianity).

identify major scriptures and sacred texts.

understand the key moral and ethical precepts of the various religions. relate the academic study of religion to their everyday experience.

## Student Core Competencies

Valencia faculty have defined four interrelated competencies (Value, Think, Communicate, and Act) that prepare students to succeed in the world community. These competencies are outlined in the College Catalog. In this course, through classroom lecture and discussion, group work, and other learning activities, you will further develop your mastery of these core competencies.

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| **Grading**  A | = | 270–300 |
| B | = | 240–269 |
| C | = | 210–239 |
| D | = | 180–209 |
| E | = | 179 or below |

**300 Points Total** Exams: 45 points each Formal essay: 45 points

One-­‐page papers: 30 points each Average of quizzes: out of 30 points Average of discussions: out of 30 points **MAKE-­‐UP AND LATE WORK**

The deadline dates for all coursework and exams are listed on the course schedule. Completion of each exam by the announced date is mandatory. Make-­‐up exams will be given very rarely, solely at the discretion of the instructor, and only in the event of *documentable* emergencies. Foreseeable circumstances (e.g. travel plans)

generally do not constitute emergencies; make your plans accordingly. Late work (quizzes, project, discussion posts) will be accepted a maximum of one week after the due date. All late work will receive a ten-point reduction, regardless of excuse.

ELECTRONIC ACCESS

Please note that computer failures, power outages, and other difficulties with electronic access will generally not be acceptable excuses for failure to submit work on time. Students should plan ahead and be prepared to make other arrangements, when necessary. ACADEMIC

INTEGRITY

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. A first offense will normally result in a grade of “zero” on the assignment in question. A second offense will result in failure of the course and referral to the appropriate college authorities for possible further action, up to and including expulsion from the college. If the instructor judges a first offense to be particularly egregious, the penalty for a second offense may be applied.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. The East Campus Office is located in Building 5, Room 216

STUDENT ASSESSMENT OF INSTRUCTION (SAI)

This term, you will receive an invitation through your Valencia e-mail account asking you to complete the Student Assessment of Instruction (SAI) to provide us with feedback on your experience in this class and to help us to improve the course. The results are released only after grades are submitted. Student names are not included in the results—your responses will be anonymous. Please send your feedback to Valencia through the SAI when it opens. We want to learn more about your experiences so that we may continue to improve our courses.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

The instructor will not withdraw you from this course. It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course officially if you need to do so. A student is permitted to withdraw from a class on or before the withdrawal deadline (Friday, March 31, 2016). A student is not permitted to withdraw from a class after the withdrawal deadline. A student who withdraws from a class before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of “W.” A student who is withdrawn for administrative reasons at any time will receive a grade of “W” or other grade as determined in consultation with the professor. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.” A student who receives a grade of “W” will not receive credit for the course, and the “W” will not be calculated in the student’s grade point average; however, the enrollment will count in the student’s total attempts in the specific course.