

REL 2300: World Religions

Fall 2019

**Instructor**: Jeremy Zorn

**Class Schedule and Location:** This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 5:30-7:20pm, in WC-005 230.

**Email**: [jzorn1@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:jzorn1@valenciacollege.edu) (Be aware that I can only respond to emails sent from your Atlas account!)

**Office Hours**: Available by appointment

**Credit Hours**: 3

**Prerequisite**: ENC 1101

**Course Description**: In this course, students will study the history, beliefs, and practices of major world religions. Religions covered in this course include Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese Religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, among other faith traditions. A minimum grade of a C is required for this course to satisfy the Gordon Rule requirement.

**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 contributions 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 various religions.
* Relate the academic study of religion to their everyday experience.

**Required Textbook**:

Jeffrey Brodd, et al. *Invitation to World Religions*, 3rd ed.

All other readings will be available in Canvas.

**Attendance Policy**:Attendance and participation are an important part of your overall grade. By attending and participating in class, you will earn three points per class session. If you are late to class (i.e. you show up after attendance has been taken), it is your responsibility to see me after class to change your zero to a one. If you do not participate in classroom activities or appear disengaged during classroom lecture or discussion, I reserve the right to deduct points from your participation grade at my discretion. Failure to show up for three consecutive class periods may result in your being withdrawn from class. Please come speak with me if you have any questions or concerns about this policy.

**Grading Scale**:

To check your grade, divide your points by the total points possible.

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=below 60%

**Assignments (700 total points)**:

**Attendance and Participation (60 points)**

Students will receive three points per class session for their attendance and active participation. If a student is late to class, he or she will receive only one point for that session. The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for unsatisfactory participation.

**Unit Quizzes (20 points each)**

Students will complete one multiple choice test per unit, covering material presented during class and in course readings.

**Field Report (100 points)**

Students will attend a local religious service at a location of their choice, and complete a field report in accordance with guidelines that will be posted on Canvas. Students are asked to attend a service with a faith tradition with which they do not have prior experience. For example, if a student was brought up attending any kind of Protestant church, it is asked that he or she not attend any kind of Christian service, including a Catholic service, for this report. Instead, the student could attend a service at a Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, or any other kind of place of worship.

**Formal Paper (100 points)**

Students will write a formal paper during the semester. Guidelines will be posted in Canvas. **As this is a writing enhanced course, failure to turn in papers will result in not receiving credit for the course**.

**Group Presentation (100 Points)**

Students will work with their peers to present on a religious tradition that we will not have time to cover in detail this semester. Students will sign up, during class, for the religious tradition they wish to present on.

**Midterm (100 points)**

This assessment will use essay-style questions to assess students’ comprehension of material discussed in class and explored in course readings, throughout the first half of the course.

**Final Exam (100 points)**

This assessment will use essay-style questions to assess students’ comprehension of material discussed in class and explored in course readings, over the duration of the course.

**Use of phones in the classroom**:

Phone use in class is not permitted. Phones must be put away (out of sight) and silenced. The first two violations of this policy will result in a warning. Upon the third violation, the student will be referred to the Dean of Students in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Failure to respect this policy will result in an immediate call to security, who will be asked to remove the student from class for obstructing the learning environment of other students.

**College-level Writing:** Throughout the course, you will enhance and develop your abilities to write at the college level. Please visit the Arts and Humanities page discussing college level writing: http://valenciacollege.edu/west/arts-and-humanities/writing/

The following tips will assist you in meeting the standards of academic writing:

●  Use the spell and grammar check in Microsoft Word or other word processing program.

●  Use Times New Roman 12” font

●  Double Space

●  Make an outline.

●  Check that you have cited your sources in every paragraph.

●  Avoid overgeneralization.

●  Avoid the use of colloquial language or extremely flowery (“fancy”) language.

●  Be specific and provide concrete examples.

**Original Work and Plagiarism:** Please adhere to the following guidelines regarding your original work:

●  Read the following essay regarding plagiarism: http://valenciacollege.edu/west/arts-and-humanities/writing/documents/Aboutplagiarism2 014.pdf

●  The papers for this course require you to use your own words as much as possible. Paraphrasing and summarizing what others say is a good practice for college-level writing, but you should indicate the ideas and original insights of others by providing the source’s author, title, and/or website. If you are not familiar with MLA, please use the following website **: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/**

●  A good rule of thumb is that if you use more than three words in a row that come directly from a source, you should put those words in quotation marks and cite the source you use.

●  Any work that does not give credit to other sources or which indicates plagiarism may result in a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade in the course, and/or disciplinary action.

**Withdrawal from a Course Policy:**

A student is permitted to withdraw from a class on or before the withdrawal deadline, as published in the College calendar. A student is not permitted to withdraw from a class after the withdrawal deadline.

A faculty member is permitted to withdraw a student from the faculty member’s class for violation of the faculty member’s attendance policy with written notification to the student prior to the beginning of the final exam period, as published in the faculty member’s syllabus. A faculty member is not permitted to withdraw a student from his or her class as a response to student conduct which falls under the jurisdiction of the Student Code of Conduct (6Hx28:10-03).

A student who withdraws from a class before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of "W." A student who is withdrawn by a professor 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". The grades of “WP” and “WF” **are eliminated.**

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.

If a student withdraws from a class, the student may, upon request and only with the faculty member’s permission (which may be withheld at any time in the sole discretion of the faculty member), continue to attend the course. If a student is withdrawn by a faculty member or is administratively withdrawn, the student is not permitted to continue to attend the class.

**The withdraw deadline for this course is November 15, 2019.**

**Testing Center West Campus:** The TESTING CENTER-WEST is located in Building 11 Room 142 --407-582-1323  
Please note!!!  
No tests are given out the last hour before closing—for example, if the Center closes at 9 p.m., the last test is given out at 8 p.m. Tests will be collected 5 minutes prior to closing.

Fall and Spring Terms:  
Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Summer Full Term, Session A, and Session B  
Regular Hours except for Fridays: Fridays: 8:00 am- 12:00 Noon

**WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING**

Your Valencia Photo I.D. is REQUIRED for all tests!  
Valencia Photo IDs are taken in the Student Development offices on each campus (West Campus office is on the 1st floor of Building 3). The Valencia photo I.D. also has your VID number on it.

The name of the course you are taking and your instructor’s name.

All supplies you will need to take the test. If your test requires bluebooks or green scantron sheets, purchase them in the bookstore. The Testing Center does not provide notebook paper, pens or pencils. Dictionaries and calculators may be borrowed.

**WHAT YOU DO NOT BRING**

1. Beepers, cell phones, personal tape or CD players, palm pilots, laptop computers.  
2. Food or beverages. You will not be allowed to take these to your seat.  
3. Children are not permitted in the Testing Center – The Testing Center does not provide sitting services during your test.

**Disability Statement:**

"Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determine accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. Please contact your home campus for more information." For East campus the number is Ph.: 407-582-2229. Here is the link to Valencia’s OSD website: http://www.valenciacc.edu/osd

**Student Conduct and Academic Honesty** :  
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.

Any student involved in incidents of cheating will be given a grade of 0% for that assignment, exam, or project without regard to who did the original work or who may have benefited. This includes the use of anyone else’s ideas, thoughts or words without giving proper credit to that person or entity. Each student is expected to be in whole compliance with the college policy of

Academic Honesty as set forth in the admissions catalog and the student handbook. Any student(s) cheating on an exam will receive a zero (0) grade, which cannot be replaced with the final score and the professor can at his/her discretion withdraw you from the class. In addition, Valencia College strives to provide a drug-free learning environment for all those involved in the academic experience.

**Baycare Behavioral Health’s Student Assistance Program:**

Valencia is committed to making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help that may assist them with psychological issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. Students have 24 hour unlimited access to the **Baycare Behavioral Health’s confidential student assistance program** phone counseling services by calling **(800) 878-5470** . Three free confidential face-to-face counseling sessions are also available to students.”

**Drug-free 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.” Valencia College Expected student conduct: 10-03 Student Code of Conduct

Valencia College is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning, and to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the rules of appropriate behavior as articulated in the Student Code of Conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Faculty may direct students who engage in inappropriate behavior that results in disruption of a class to leave the class. Such students may be subject to other disciplinary action, which may include a warning, withdrawal from class, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the college. Please read the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

Here is the link to Valencia’s Student Code of Conduct

http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=180&volumeID\_1=8&na vst=0

Specific Authority:

1006.60, FS.

Law Implemented:

1006.60, FS.

Valencia College is committed to making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. For that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. Free face-to-face counseling is also available.

**Cultural Diversity and Inclusion**

It is of utmost importance to be courteous and respectful to all individuals enrolled in the course as well as to the people of the cultures we study and discuss. This includes being mindful of the information you post in discussions and submit in your journals and reflection papers.

**Disclaimer Statement**

*This document may be altered at the instructor’s discretion, during the course of the term. It is the responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced. Your continued participation in this course after the drop-add deadline period constitutes an agreement with and an acceptance of the conditions presented in this syllabus.*