

**REL 2300 - World Religions**

Course Instructor

Priyanka Ramlakhan, Lake Nona Campus

Please email me for an appointment. You may visit in-person or make an online Zoom appointment.

pramlakhan@valenciacollege.edu

In-person and Virtual Office Hours:

M/W: 1-2:30pm & 2:30-3:45pm

T/TH: 11:30-1pm & 3:45-4:45pm

Friday 11-1pm Online

Course Description

This course examines a basic introduction to world religions. It focuses on central concepts, historical development and fundamental nature of religion through philosophy, architecture, music, religion and art. It explores concepts from such disciplines integrated with religion and its practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

* Investigate the academic study of religion as it relates to specific historical contexts while keeping in mind the social and cultural function of religion
* Describe the basic principles of the formal analysis of the study of religion and religious theories and terms.
* Apply analysis toward understanding and interpreting various expressions of religion, for example: philosophy, science, literature, theater, dance, religious performance, music, and visual arts.
* Articulate and demonstrate their own understanding of cultural competence and sensibilities of artistic taste while keeping in mind themes of diversity, inclusion and cultural responses between people and their religious beliefs.
* Explore the practices and beliefs of major religious traditions including Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism, among other traditions through the demonstration of college level writing skills through multiple assignments.

Prerequisites

Minimum grade of C in ENC 1101 or ENC 1101H or IDH 1110 Basic introduction to the world's religions. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement in this course.

Course Structure

This course is organized in a total of fifteen module units located in Canvas.  Each unit includes multiple topics and themes in different historical periods.

Textbook

Invitation to World Religions Fourth Edition

By: Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Bradley Nystrom, Robert Platzner, Richard Shek, and Erin Stiles

ISBN: 9780197543788

Performance Criteria

**Reading, Timeline, & Video Assignments**

**Discussions**

Discussions form the basis of our learning in this course and allow students an opportunity to evaluate their understanding by dialoguing with their peers.

* Original and reflect the student's unique perspective
* Demonstrate an understanding of the readings/course materials related to the discussion topic
* Incorporate real-world examples to support their thinking as it is relevant to the topic
* Timely - Keep in mind that most of our discussions require a response from your peers, so ensure that you create your initial post in a timely manner

**Quizzes**

* Each unit will conclude with a quiz to test your knowledge. To be successful, it’s important to review lecture slides, read the chapter, and pay attention to useful study terms in the chapter.

**Fieldwork Project** - Exploring Religious Communities

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to model [academic integrity](http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume8/8-11-Academic-Dishonesty.pdf) that is in keeping with Valencia College's standard for learning. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts, research, and self-expression. Assessments must be taken individually and not be reproduced, redistributed, copied digitally or shared in any way.

Grading Scale

90%- 100%                                       A

89.9% - 80%                                     B

79.9% - 70%                                     C

69.9% - 60%                                     D

59.5% - - 50% and lower                 F

Grading Breakdown

Reading, Timeline, Video & Discussions 40%

Quizzes 20%

Final Project 30%

Final Exam 10%

Extra Credit (Instructor may provide extra credit assignments at various times during the semester)

Late Work/Makeup Policy

Late work will be accepted only if students provide written documentation of a medical emergency or ongoing medical condition that is submitted on the first day of the student's return to the course. I understand that sometimes personal things come up that may take students away from their academic work, if this is the case, it is always best for students to let the instructor know what is going on in case additional accommodations may be needed.

Tips for Success

* Make a study plan
* Manage time
* Establish a great work space
* Know your resources
* Seek help when needed

Canvas Resources/Technical Support

The Valencia website has information [Canvas resourcesLinks to an external site.](https://valenciacollege.edu/faculty/canvas-resources/) and where you can go for [technical supportLinks to an external site.](https://valenciacollege.edu/about/support/).

Covid-19 Statement

If you are unable to participate in the course for other reasons, e.g. illness, family emergency, etc., please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan to complete any missed assignments so that your learning can progress in your course. In the case of a prolonged online absence of one week or more, continuation in the course will be determined on a case-by-case basis through discussion between you and your professor.

Class Schedule

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| **Content** | **Due Date** |
| Chapter 1: Academic Study of Religion | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz Jan 16 |
| Chapter 2: Indigenous Religions of North America | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz Jan 23 |
| Chapter 3: Indigenous Religions of Africa | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz Jan 30 |
| Chapter 4: Hinduism | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz Feb 6 |
| Chapter 5: Buddhism | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz Feb 13 |
| Chapter 6: Jainism | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz Feb 20 |
| Chapter 7: Sikhism | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussionQuiz Feb 27 |
| Chapter 8: Chinese Religions – Confucianism and Daoism | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz March 6 |
| Chapter 9: Shinto | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz March 15 |
| Chapter 10: Zoroastrianism | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz March 20 |
| Chapter 11: Judaism | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz March 27 |
| Chapter 12: Christianity | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz April 3 |
| Chapter 13: Islam | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz April 10 |
| Chapter 14: New Religious Movements | Reading, Timeline & Video AssignmentsDiscussion Quiz April 17th |
| Fieldwork Project | Due April 22 |
| Final Exam  | April 20 – 24 Online |