

Valencia College – East Orlando Campus

REL 2300: World Religions

Spring 2020 - 16 weeks

Instructor: Scott Erker

Class time: MON WED 11:30am – 12:45pm

Classroom: Building EC-001 - Room 139

Office: Valencia East Campus – Bldg 1, Rm

Office Hours: M W 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm or by appointment

Telephone: 407-582-2810

E-mail: serker@mail.valenciacollege.edu/ Canvas email

Required Texts: Invitation to World Religion Second Edition, Jeffery Brodd, Eds.

Access to the internet, word processing software, and enrollment in Canvas course companion are required.

Further Course Instructions, Handouts, and Due Dates: Posted on Canvas

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Meets Gordon Rule and General Education requirement- This is a general introduction to the humanities and a primer course for understanding the process of creativity in the various arts disciplines. This integrated course is designed to assist students in exploring and analyzing their perception of creative expression. This course helps students to increase their understanding and appreciation of the creative process through the study of representative examples in visual, literary, and performing arts disciplines from various cultures and historical periods. In order to make this class relevant to students, transferable skills will also be the focus of class time. That is, this class will also concentrate on what you can DO outside of this class as a result of what you DO in this course.

Evaluation Methodologies: Quizzes, Midterm, Discussions, Multimedia Assignment, Response Papers, Analytical essay, and Final exam

 COURSE COMPETENCIES

Each student will be able to evidence the continuity of the human desire to create and express, to develop and stimulate: the visual arts, sculpture, architecture, music, drama, and performing arts. The successful student will:

1.    Examine elements, techniques, and principles used in the creative process (Lecture 8 hours)

Domain: Cognitive/ Level: Analyzing

Learning Objectives

Identify elements of creative expression

Describe techniques of creative expression

Explain principles of creative expression

  2.    Discover connections between creative expressions (Lecture 6 hours)

Domain: Affective/ Level: Responding

 Learning Objectives

Investigate similar elements, techniques, and principles in various disciplines

Explore similarities evident in creative expressions of the same style from differing disciplines

  3.    Examine formal characteristics of different creative expressions (lecture 8 hours)

Domain: Cognitive/ Level: Analyzing

Learning Objectives

Apply learned criteria to artifacts

Differentiate the characteristics of different creative examples

4.    Classify humanities disciplines (Lecture 6 hours)

Domain: Cognitive/ Level: Analyzing

Learning Objectives

Explore characteristics of different genres of creative expression

Classify various creative expressions according to characteristics

5.    Explore the effects of creative expressions on human perception (Lecture 6 hours)

Domain: Affective/ Level: Responding

 Learning Objectives

Investigate people's responses to particular creative works

Identify creative elements and principles causing specific reactions in audiences

  6.    Analyze examples of creative expression (Lecture 8 hours)

Domain: Cognitive/ Level: Analyzing

 Linked Core Abilities

Communicate effectively

 Learning Objectives

Produce a written analysis of creative expressions

Explain analytical material in proper academic essay format. Compare artistic elements and principles in various examples

Contrast characteristics of different creative expressions

7.    Employ successful use of technology and multimedia for presenting and communicating ideas

about the arts (Lecture 6 hours)

Domain: Cognitive/ Level: Applying

Learning Objectives

Explore internet sources for information relating to the humanities

Use technology in assimilation, discussion, and/or presentation of concepts

ATTENDANCE

Attending all classes is an integral component in learning as lecture and discussions provide the keys to master the concepts of the course. Participation and attendance will compose about 10% of your overall grade so missing classes will obviously result in an overall reduction of your final grade. Missing four or more consecutive classes without advanced approval will result in an automatic withdrawal from the course or possible reduction in grade

 General Attendance Policy

**Class attendance is required beginning with the first class meeting. Students are expected to attend all class sessions for which they are registered. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange to make up work missed because of legitimate class absences and notify the instructor when an absence will occur. The instructor determines the effect of absences on grades**.

However, students who are receiving financial aid or veteran’s benefits, who are reported as never attending a course, will be withdrawn from the class and benefits adjusted or rescinded. In order to obtain credit for a course, a student must attend and participate regularly. Individual instructors are given the autonomy of allowing a student to complete the course based on the individual student’s circumstances and his or her progress in the course.

 Collegiate Representative

A collegiate representative is defined as a student who represents the college extramurally as a student-athlete, student-performing artist, student government member, or student academic competitor or award winner. These four categories are defined in the following manner;

1.    Student-athlete defines an individual who engages in any Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) sponsored intercollegiate sport.

2.    Student-performing artist defines an individual who engages in any EFSC sponsored performing arts events.

3.    Student government member defines an individual who has been elected to the executive board of the campus based, EFSC Student Government Association and reports directly to the staff of the Office of Campus Student Activities.

4.    Student-academic competitor defines an individual who has been invited to present his or her works at a recognized, academically-based conference, is academically competing (e.g. Brain Bowl), or participating in educational training (e.g. OUR workshop, rehearsal, scholarship auditions)

5.    Student-Award winner defines an individual who receives a non-athletic award and the student is approved by EFSC to represent the college.

Students as defined in the section below are expected to attend all scheduled classes unless excused according to one of the criteria outlined below.

1.    Student-athlete who is sponsored by EFSC and is participating in an athletic competition against another institution. Practices are not excused absences.

2.    Student-performing artist who is sponsored by EFSC and is participating in an exhibition or recital, as part of a performing arts event. Practices are generally not considered an excused absence, but in the case of a dress rehearsal or ensemble rehearsal, it would be considered an excused absence.

3.    Student government member who is sponsored by EFSC and is attending a mandatory training conference as part of the requirements for his or her elected position.

4.    Student-academic competitor who is representing EFSC and has been invited to present his or her works at a recognized academically-based conference, is academically competing (e.g. brain bowl) on behalf of EFSC, or participating in EFSC approved educational training (e.g. OUR workshop, rehearsal, scholarship auditions).

5.    Student-Award winner who receives a non-athletic award and is approved by EFSC to represent the college.

A student anticipating the need for an excused absence must notify the instructor in writing with documentation from the appropriate EFSC representative within the first week of the start of the term. A student anticipating a need to be excused from assignments due in an online course must provide documentation from the appropriate EFSC representative that the student’s attendance at such college sponsored event ***prevented*** the student from performing work online. This documentation should reflect that the student did not have access to a computer and/or an internet connection for a specified period of time. In the case of a student-academic competitor, award winner, invitation to present at a conference, invitation to perform, or student-athlete invited to participate in a playoff series, the notification to the instructor must be made within three business days from the time of receipt of the invitation. The notification letter must originate from the appropriate EFSC representative, e.g. coach or sponsor, be written on EFSC letterhead, include the student’s name, B-number, the student’s category, and a list of anticipated absentee dates. This time away from the classroom will not be counted in the general attendance policy. The student is expected to complete all missed classroom and homework assignments within the time frame designated by the instructor.

Religious Observances

In accordance with federal and state statutes, students enrolled in credit or certificate courses may be granted excused absences from classes that are scheduled during a religious holiday. During the first week of class, the student must request in writing approval from the instructor for the absence(s). The instructor should provide alternative arrangements for the student to complete the work scheduled for the missed session. Students excused for religious observances will be expected to meet the class requirements for those days without undue delay.

 Veterans

Under federal regulations, VA educational benefits will be discontinued for those students whose GPA falls below 2.0 in three consecutive terms. Students who have been warned or suspended should contact the Valencia College Office of Veterans Affairs; 407-582-8387

Withdrawal due to Military Service

Currently enrolled students who are called to, or enlist in, active military service shall not incur academic or financial penalties by virtue of performing military service on behalf of our country.

Such student shall be permitted the option of either completing the course or courses at a later date without penalty, or withdrawing from the course or courses with a full refund of fees paid. If the student chooses to withdraw, the student's record shall reflect that the withdrawal is due to active military service. The transcript will reflect the non-punitive grade of “W6.”

Student will provide a copy of military orders to the Associate Provost or Dean.

1.    The Associate Provost or Dean will determine whether the student is allowed to complete the course(s) at a later date or withdraw with a full refund.

 a. If student chooses to complete the course(s) at a later date the Associate Provost or Dean will request the instructor(s) to create an “Incomplete Grade” contract that outlines student’s course progress to date and outstanding assignments.

i. The Associate Provost will make a comment on the student’s record in the database indicating decision and retain all documents.

ii. Instructor will award a final grade of “I – Incomplete.”

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Students are required to read the accompanying Chapter readings before class. Be ready to have a question ready related to the class material. Points will be given every day for attendance and class participation. *In order to fully participate in the class discussions, one must prepare for them!!*

35 points total (Competencies 1-6 assessed)

TESTS

There will be 1 midterm test (60 pts), at least two scheduled quizzes (10 pts each), possibly one unscheduled quiz (5 pts), and one cumulative Final Exam (75 pts). Make-up tests for full credit will be given only under extenuating circumstances.

160 points total (Competencies 1-6 assessed)

 WRITING REQUIREMENTS

8+ Writing Assignments; 6+ Response Papers (10 pts each) 1 Religious Experience Paper (20 pts) & 1 Comparative Essay (20 pts) These will attempt to measure your competency in the areas of basic research formatting, organization of thought, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and, as important, application. The writing assignments will be a formal analyses of each of the subjects within the study of World Religions; Approaches, Creation Myths, Indigenous Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Yoruba, Shinto, Confucianism, Daoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Details will be provided in Canvas and in class.

          Type written in MLA format. Paragraph style (12 font double spaced) 100 points total (Competencies 1-6 assessed)

MULTIMEDIA ASSIGNMENT (Extra Credit Option)

Students may submit a multimedia assignment employing some form of presentation (Power Point or any other multimedia platform of your choosing) which will present a comparison and contrast between two elements of any one theme in World Religions. The instructor must approve of the subject before work begins. It will contain a minimum of 20 slides or ten minutes of video. Details will be provided in Canvas and in class.

+10 possible points total (Competency 7 assessed)

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

**Academic dishonesty pertains to both tests, quizzes (i.e. cheating), and writing assignments (i.e. plagiarism- writing someone’s words or ideas and not giving due credit to the author of those words or ideas). Academic dishonesty on any test or writing assignment will result in an automatic “F” for the assignment and possible reporting to the Dean of the College for the first offense.**

 LATE WORK

Late work will only be accepted under extenuating circumstances. The same applies for make-up work.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

**Students who wish to withdraw from the class must do so by the specified date (Friday, March 20, 2018). You must withdraw yourself as this is not the instructor’s responsibility.**

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students are expected to maintain a collegial attitude throughout the semester. This means behaving professionally and cooperatively in class **and** **not using discussion time for personal discussion** (that’s for out of class time). **Students may not use cell phones in any way, shape, or form throughout semester-this means from the time class begins until I dismiss class**. **This includes texting.** If you are caught using your cell phone as such, your Participation grade will not be counted for that week; also, if you are off topic in discussion or video, the same may apply. Also, please note that as a college student, you must strive to respect other students; this includes but is not limited to never personally belittling or berating other students even if you don’t agree with their point of view. You may choose to disagree and can even voice this (I encourage serious academic debate)-but do it respectfully. Please read the Student Code of Conduct <https://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/academicpoliciesprocedures/studentcodeofconduct/>

That said, I reserve the right to have you removed from my class for any behavior which violates the Student Code of Conduct in addition to what is stated above and withdrawn from class for any serious infraction of the Student Code of Conduct at Valencia College.

GRADE EVALUATION AND GRADE SCALE

Evaluation:

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| --- | --- |
| **Assignments** | **POINTS POSSIBLE** |
| Attendance, Participation, & Homework  2 Quizzes (10 pts each) + 1 (5 pts) | = 35 points  = 20 points, 5 pts |
| 8 papers – 6 Response, 1 Rel Exp, 1 Compare/Contrast  10 pts each / 20 pts / 20 pts (Graded)   1 Multimedia Assignment (extra credit) | = 100 points (+10 pts) |
| 1 Midterm Test | = 60 points |
| 1 Cumulative Final | = 75 points |
| TOTAL | = 270 points |

 To know your overall grade throughout the semester and, subsequently, your final grade, use the following formula:

POINTS EARNED/POINTS POSSIBLE \* 100 = % GRADE;

Scale:

90%-100% =A

80%- 89% = B

70%- 79% = C

60%- 69% = D

0%- 59% = F

Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD)

*Students with documented disabilities who desire to receive services including special testing conditions, or who need specific accommodations, should seek information with the****Valencia College Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD), Building 5, Room 216.*** *There are no disadvantages in registering, and that office keeps everything confidential. It does not get written on one’s transcript or diploma that services were ever received. Services may not be received without this registration.*

Phone: 407-582-2229 Email: [osdeast@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:osdeast@valenciacollege.edu)

Title IX at Valencia College

Including resources for Sexual Misconduct and Assault Victims

Valencia College is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning and working environment that promotes responsibility and respect, and where no one is unlawfully excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any College program or activity on the basis of sex or gender. To that end, the College has zero tolerance for sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and other sexually-related offenses, collectively referred to as Sexual Misconduct.

Sexual Misconduct in an educational setting implicates a Federal law called Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Consistent with the directives of Title IX, all forms of Sexual Misconduct are prohibited by the College.

https://valenciacollege.edu/students/disputes/learn-more.php#sexual-harassment

When a report of Sexual Misconduct is made to the College, Title IX requires the College to promptly and effectively respond to such report, even if the individual making the report requests that no action be taken. Any member of the College community who is found to have engaged in any form of Sexual Misconduct is subject to institutional discipline in addition to any penalties that may be imposed by a court of law. Further, the College will take steps to prevent the Sexual Misconduct from occurring in the future, and remedy any discriminatory effects as appropriate.

World Religions - COURSE OUTLINE

**Monday and Wednesday**

***Subject to Change***

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| --- | --- |
| January 6 | **Orientation** – Syllabus |
| January 8 | Creation Myths                                                           Week 1 |
| January 13 | Approaches to the Study of Religion  Response Paper Due |
| January 15 | Documentary Movie: Black Robe  Library Class  Week 2 |
| January 20 | **NO CLASS – MLK Day** |
| January 22 | North American Indian Religion: Plains  Response Paper Due  Week 3 |
| January 27 | North American Indian Religion: Northwest |
| January 29 | Maya, Aztec, and Inca Religion  Week 4 |
| February 3 | Maya Aztec Inca Religion  Egyptian Book of the Dead |
| February 5 | Celtic and Norse Religion and Myth  Week 5 |
| February 10 | Hinduism |
| February 12 | Hinduism: Guest Speaker  Week 6 |
| February 17 | Chinse Religion; Confucianism and Daoism |
| February 19 | Japanese Religion: Shinto  **Mid Term Review**  Week 7 |
| **February 24** | **MIDTERM EXAM – 30 Questions** |
| February 26 | Buddhism – Guided Meditation  Week 8 |
| March 2 | Buddhism: Guest Speaker  Buddhism Documentary |
| March 4 | African Religion: Yoruba                                                                                                                  Week 9 |
| March 9 | **NO CLASS – Spring Break** |
| March 11 | **NO CLASS – Spring Break**  Week 10 |
| March 16 | Judaism |
| March 18 | Judaism: Guest Speaker      Week 11 |
| March 23 | Christianity |
| March 25 | Christianity Topics  Salem Witch Trials/Weber Spirit of Protestantism  Week 12 |
| March 30 | Philosophy of Religion |
| April 1 | Joseph Campbell:The Monomyth  Week 13 |
| April 6 | Islam |
| April 8 | Islam: Guest Speaker  Week 14 |
| April 13 | New Religions |
| April 15 | **Final Review – Jeopardy**  Week 15 |
| April 22 | **FINAL EXAM – 75 Questions**  **10:00 am – 12:30 pm**  Week 16 |
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