

## **Anth& 234 INTST 234 - Comparative Religion Winter 2010**

5 Credits

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By appointment only

### **Description of Comparative Religion course**

This course examines the religions/spiritual beliefs of humanity. Comparative Religion is cross-listed between Anthropology and International Studies; as such it explores human belief systems throughout the world. The central concerns of this course will be:

- How have religious systems developed and influenced world history?
- How do religious/spiritual beliefs impact societies and cultures?
- How are religious/spiritual beliefs being affected by, and affecting, globalization?

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Identify the different approaches to the study of religion that distinguish comparative religion and anthropology.
- Explain the theories of religion associated with Freud, Jung, Marx, Durkheim, and Weber.
- Describe some of the characteristics of oral religions
- Identify the history of Hinduism and the diverse paths that are included with Hinduism today.

- Explain the key concepts of Buddhism, including the Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path, the major events in the life of Siddhartha Gautama and the differences between the various Buddhist denominations.
- Describe the key elements and vocabulary of Taoism and Confucianism.
- Identify the major events in Jewish history from the Biblical through Rabbinical and Modern developments
- Describe the significance of the life of Jesus for Christians, the basic elements of the early creeds, as well as the historical divergence of Christian denominations
- Identify the origins of Islam, Islam's connections with Judaism and Christianity, the life of Muhammed, the Four Pillars, and the expansion of Islamic civilization
- Describe and study how modernism and globalization interact with traditional religious/spiritual beliefs

This course is also designed to teach students what anthropology and international studies offer for a deeper comprehension of our shared human condition. Critical thinking skills are vital not only for a better understanding of these disciplines but also importantly for being citizens of an increasingly globalized world. One goal of this course is therefore to become sensitive to religious/spiritual beliefs differences and at the same time aware of how our own cultural biases can shape our view of the world. The best way to actively combat our own ethnocentrism is to learn about the diversity of human religions/spiritual beliefs and appreciate our differences.

### **How weekly Learning Modules are organized:**

Each week you will see a Learning Module and a pushpin symbol. The Learning Module contains the weekly lecture notes and discussion points. The pushpin symbol gives you a link to the discussion area where you will post your discussion points. Some weeks there will also be web links in the Learning Module, which will take you to some sites where you can learn more about the weekly topics.

### **Text book required:**

Esposito, John L., Fasching, Darrell J., Lewis, Todd. 2009. *World Religions Today*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Order the text book before the course begins.

**Course binder:** This is useful to organize all the course material: syllabus, calendar and weekly assignments.

**Software:** Please make sure your software is compatible with VISTA by performing the browser check on the opening page.

## **Discussions**

Students will be given four discussion points each week, similar to short essay answers.. These are 3 points from the readings and sometimes 1 point which each student will find themselves from an online newspaper article (this will be explained more completely in Week 1 Learning Module). By Thursday of each week students will need to post their 4 points in the Discussion area. Then by the end of the week, Sunday, they will need to post 6 (in total) responses to other student's discussions. Discussion is very important in an online course and it is an excellent tool for students to help each other and show what they have understood from the readings. Students will be expected to be courteous to each other at all times. Discussion is not graded for content but for participation so please contribute since it raises your overall grade.

## **Quizzes**

Every 2nd week there will be a quiz based on the weekly readings and discussions. The quiz will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and two short essay questions taken from discussions.

## **Mini-fieldwork Presentation/Interview**

The Bellevue College everyone reads book is: *Listening is an Act of Love*, 2007. David Isay, editor. New York: Penguin Books. This book is taken from the StoryCorps Project in which people interview other people about significant events/memories of their lives. This project is an oral history of real events in American lives and it will be retained in an archive. Please visit their website at [www.storycorps.net](http://www.storycorps.net).

For this course each student will be required to interview a person of faith and record the interview. The BC library will have equipment if you live in the area and I will be giving some information about how to do this if you do not live in

the area. What is important is that you choose to interview someone who comes from a religious path that is not one you have had experiences with--it needs to be a unknown belief system. This will give you an idea of what anthropologists do when they complete fieldwork. There will be more information about this project after the Midterm. Start thinking about who you might interview so you will be prepared when it is time.

### **Midterm and Final Exam**

The Midterm will consist of multiple choice questions and short essay questions from the discussions from Weeks 1 through 5. The Presentation will be due by the end of Week 11, which will be your own short fieldwork experience or interview. The Final Exam will be a combination of multiple choice and discussion points from the last 5 weeks (Weeks 6 through 11).

### **GRADES and points**

Discussions	9 out of 10 count	225	
25 points each	225 Total points		
Quizzes	220 Total points	220	
55 points each			
Midterm	255 Total Points	255	
Presentation	75 Total Points	75	
Final Exam	225 Total Points	225 Points	

### **Total Points = 1000**

<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>96-100%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>90-95%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>87-89%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>83-86%</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>80-82%</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>75-79%</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>65-74%</b>

<b>C-</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>59-64%</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>51-58</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt; 50 %</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>withdrawal</b>
<b>HW</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Hardship withdrawal</b>

For information on BCC grading policies please read the official grade information online.

### Course calendar

<b>Week</b>		<b>Reading</b>	<b>Due</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Course information Reading: Understanding Religion</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 1</b>	<b>Student bio, Back up Questionnaire, Week 1 Ptps, Practice Quiz anytime. Due by 1/10/2010</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Indigenous Religions</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 2</b>	<b>Week 2 Ptps Quiz 1 Due Sunday 1/17</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hinduism</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 3</b>	<b>Week 3 Ptps Due Sunday 1/24</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 4</b>	<b>Week 4 Ptps Quiz 2 Due Sunday 1/31</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Jainism and Sikhism</b>	<b>Text: Chapters 5 and 7</b>	<b>Week 5 Ptps Due Sunday 2/07</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Religions of Chinese and Japanese Origins</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 6</b>	<b>Week 6 Ptps Midterm Due Sunday 2/14</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Abrahamic Religions Judaism</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 8</b>	<b>Week 7 Ptps Due Sunday 2/21</b>

<b>8</b>	<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 9</b>	<b>Week 8 Ptps Quiz 3 Due Sunday 2/28</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Islam</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 10</b>	<b>Week 9 Ptps Due Sunday 2/28</b>
<b>1 0</b>	<b>Religion, Modernity, and Globalization</b>	<b>Text: Chapters 11 and 12</b>	<b>Week 10 Ptps  Quiz 4  Due Sunday 3/4</b>
<b>1 1 / 1 2</b>	<b>Presentation Final Exam</b>		<b>Due 3/20/2010 Final Closes at 11:59 PM 3/24/2010</b>

**This is an outline of the course calendar, please go to the course calendar in course information for more details.**

**Instructor Bio:**

I have been teaching anthropology at Bellevue Community College since 2004. I completed my B.A. with honors in Anthropology in 1995 at the University of Washington. I then began graduate studies at the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research in New York in 1996. I received a Wenner-Gren pre-dissertation grant in 2000 and conducted 12 months of fieldwork in Milan, Italy. My field site was a public housing tenant committee, where I conducted research on the concepts of identity and belonging among Italians and immigrants from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. I was awarded a Ph.D. in 2004. During the years of dissertation writing I began working with non-profit affordable housing organizations in Seattle. I am still working at providing affordable housing when I am not teaching. I enjoy movies, travel, and reading in my spare time.

## **General Education Ratings**

**Comparative Religion has the following General Education Ratings:**

### **REASONING**

<b>Critical Thinking, Creativity, Problem solving</b>	<b>Quantitative/Logical</b>	<b>Research/Information Literacy</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>
2	2	0	1	1

What do these ratings mean?

0 = Course does not include instruction and assessment of this area.

1 = Course includes instruction and practice of the gen-ed area, and performance/knowledge of this area is assessed.

2 = Course includes instruction and practice in two or more of the outcomes of this gen-ed area, performance/knowledge is assessed, and 20% or more of the course focuses on it.

3 = Course includes instruction and practice in at least half of the outcomes of this gen-ed area, performance/knowledge is assessed, and 1/3 or more of the course focuses on it.

Please consult BCC's Course Catalog for more information on General Education Ratings.

## **PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**

**Winter 2010**

### **Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\***

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior

are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete (“I”). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an “F”).

### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F.”

### Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

### Withdrawal From Class



College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

### Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

### Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

## Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.



*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*