

# **Anth& 234 INTST 234 - Comparative Religion Spring 2009**

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 the diversity of our world.

**Text book required:**

Molloy, Michael. 2008. *Experiencing the World's Religions. Tradition, Challenges, and Change*. 4th edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

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Please 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 Points to ponder each week, similar to short essay answers.. These are 3 points from the readings and 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 Ptps. 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 Ptps. The quiz will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and two short essay questions taken from the Ptps.

## Midterm and Final Exam

The Midterm will consist of multiple choice questions and short essay questions from the Ptps from Weeks 1 through 5. The Presentation will be due in Week 11 and this will be your own short fieldwork experience. The Final Exam will be a combination of multiple choice and Ptps from the last 6 weeks.

## GRADES

Discussion	9 out of 10 count	225 Points
25 points total		

Quizzes 55 points each	4 out of 4	220 Points
Midterm		2230 Points
Presentation		<b>50 Points</b>
Final		275 Points

**Total points possible: 1000 points**

<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>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>50-64%</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt; 50%</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Official withdrawal</b>
<b>HW</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Hardship withdrawal</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Incomplete</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 Student bio, Backup Questionnaire, Week 1 Ptps, Practice</b>

			<b>Quiz anytime</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Indigenous Religions</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 2</b>	<b>Week 2 Pts Quiz 1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hinduism</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 3</b>	<b>Week 3 Pts</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 4</b>	<b>Week 4 Pts Quiz 2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Jainism and Sikhism</b>	<b>Text: Chapters 5 and 7</b>	<b>Week 5 Pts</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Religions of Chinese and Japanese Origins</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 6</b>	<b>Week 6 Pts Midterm</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Abrahamic Religions Judaism</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 8</b>	<b>Week 7 Pts</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Text: Chapter 9</b>	<b>Week 8 Pts Quiz 3</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Islam</b>	<b>Text: Chapter</b>	<b>Week 9 Pts</b>

		<b>10</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Religion, Modernity, and Globalization</b>	<b>Text: Chapters 11 and 12</b>	<b>Week 10 Ptps Quiz 4</b>
<b>11/12</b>	<b>Presentat ion Final Exam</b>		<b>Due 6/11 Final Due 6/18</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 2003. 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.

## **ONLINE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Revised Spring 2009

Bellevue Community College's Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue Community College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at BCC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

The college's "Affirmation of Inclusion" is in line with the principle of free speech in a free society: we have the right to express unpopular ideas as long as we don't show disrespect for reasonable people who might believe otherwise. In an online course, you will be expressing ideas through the medium of the course site rather than face to face in the classroom. In that case, these expectations refer to the courtesy with which you communicate with one another through e-mails and e-discussions. Part of this respect involves professional behavior towards the instructor, colleagues, and the class itself.

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

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: plagiarizing material from the Internet and posting rude or personal attacks in discussions. When you are in doubt about any behavior, please consult your instructor. In addition, you may wish to review the general applicable rules of cyberspace, such as in the Core Rules of Netiquette. The instructor reserves the right to remove posted messages, and downgrade assessments as a result of these types of behaviors. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services, [link to Student Code](#).

## Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). It is the student's responsibility for maintaining contact and adhering to the agreed-upon actions. Vista class sites, and material, may not be directly accessible after the end of the quarter so it important to make arrangements before the quarter ends. The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F"). There is a standard form that instructors have access to in their instructor's grade briefcase.

## F Grade

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

## Final Examination Schedule

Final examinations may involve proctored on-campus arranged exams or may be administrated completely online at the discretion of the instructor and in keeping with the stated policies provided in the course syllabus. Please refer to the syllabus at the start of the quarter for additional details and contact the instructor directly for any clarifications. A student who is not in compliance with the scheduled format 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 in



compliance with 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 during the standard academic year (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course. Check Enrollment Calendar Deadlines, Refunds/Withdrawals, for additional details. As with most enrollment deadlines, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these dates and act accordingly.

### Hardship Withdrawal (HW)

From page 9 of the current course catalog, 2008-2009 online catalog, HW indicates a withdrawal request made because of extenuating circumstances after the official withdrawal period is over. The student must contact the instructor to request this withdrawal option, or the faculty member may initiate the contact. No points are calculated into the grade-point average. 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 contact the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) link to DRC. The office is located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110, email [drc@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:drc@bellevuecollege.edu)). Students will need to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter or contact your online instructor directly by email. Students who require accommodation in a course should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

### Distribution of Grades

Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site. Any returned material should be accessed prior to the end of the quarter. After the end of the quarter, Vista class sites may not be accessible by students. Individual instructors may use non-Vista tools for recording and maintaining the students' progress. Questions about grades assigned should be initially directed to your instructor.

## Submission and Returning of Papers, Assignments and Assessments:

Specific guidelines for taking exams and submitting assignments are published in the syllabus. Please contact instructor at the start of the quarter for any clarifications.

## Technical Assistance

Vista-related or technical issues should be referred to Distance Education, link to Distance Education web resources. You may also email them at [landerso@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:landerso@bellevuecollege.edu) or call 425-564-2438 (1-877-641-2712). Vista tutorial help and basic instructions can be found at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/studentguide/>

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