

Anth& 234 INTST 234 – Comparative Religion Winter 2009

5 Credits

Instructor: Dr. Julie J. Smith

Mail address:

D 100 Social Science Division

3000 Landerholm Circle SE

Bellevue, WA 98007

Office D 220

Phone: 425-564-4189

Email:jsmith@bcc.ctc.edu

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.

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 five Points to ponder each week. These are 3 points from the readings and 1 point which each student will find themselves from an online newspaper article. 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 5 (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.**

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 short essay questions from the Ptps from Weeks 1 through 5. The Final Exam will be a combination of multiple choice and Ptps from the last 6 weeks.

Grades

Discussion 25 points	9 out of 10 count	225
Quizzes 55 points	4 out of 4	220
Midterm		255
Final		300

Total points possible: 1000 points

A	4.0	96-100%
A-	3.7	90-95%

B+	3.3	87-89%
B	3.0	83-86%
B-	2.7	80-82%
C+	2.3	75-79%
C	2.0	65-74%
D	1.0	50-64%
F	0	< 50%
W	0	Official withdrawal
HW	0	Hardship withdrawal
I	0	Incomplete

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

Course calendar

Week	Subject	Reading
Due		
1	Course information Reading: Understanding Religion	Text: Chapter 1 Student bio, Back up Questionnaire, Week 1 Ptps, Practice Quiz anytime
2	Indigenous Religions	Text: Chapter 2 Week 2 Ptps Quiz 1
3	Hinduism	Text: Chapter 3 Week 3 Ptps
4	Buddhism	Text: Chapter 4 Week 4 Ptps Quiz 2
5	Jainism and Sikhism And Shinto	Text: Chapters 5 and 7 Week 5 Ptps Midterm
6	Daoism and	Text: Chapter Week 6 Ptps

	Confucianism	6	Quiz 3
7	Judaism	Text: Chapter 8	Week 7 Ptps
8	Christianity	Text: Chapter 9	Week 8 Ptps Quiz 4
9	Islam	Text: Chapter 10	Week 9 Ptps
10	Alternatives and the Modern Search	Text: Chapters 11 and 12	Week 10 Ptps Quiz 5
11	Final Exam	Final Exam	By last day of class Final Due

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					
Critical Thinking, Creativity, Problem-Solving	Quantitative/Logical	Research/Information Literacy	Reading	Writing	Listening, Speaking
2	2	0	1	1	0

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

Revised Fall 2007

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community 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 Community 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 BCC 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 Center (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 DSS 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 Support Services, 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 BCC 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 Community 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.*