COURSE SYLLABUS
HUM 420: Comparative Religion

Course Description

A comparative study of the great religions of the world. Philosophy of culture is explored and the important developments in Eastern and Western philosophy are considered. This course does not take a definitive position on the relative merits of the religions examined.

General Course Information

Number of Units/Weeks	4/10
#Hours Lecture/#Hours Laboratory/#Hours Homework	40/0/80
Prerequisite(s)	HUM 110 or 115
Co-requisites (s)	None
Course Developer(s)	Dominic Camplisson
Date Approved / Last Review	Nov. 2002 / May 2014

Learning Outcomes

- Explain why religions exist and what purposes they serve
- Compare and contrast specific religions according to selected characteristics (e.g., belief in an afterlife)
- Identify and describe the key sacred writings unique to each religion
- Describe critical issues faced by all religions in contemporary society
- Discuss the historical and contemporary thinking about the relationship of religion to economic, social, and political factors in a society

Instructional Methods Employed in this Course

- Lecture and reading assignments
- Hands-on exercises
- Research
- Student presentations
- Practical application of theory and skills in authentic design projects
- Build on prior knowledge and experience of students to enhance richness of class activities

Information Resources for this Course

📖 Textbook

Ellwood, R., & McGraw, B. (2009). *Many peoples, many faiths: Women and men in the world religions* (9th ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall.

🖱 Web Site Readings

BBC Religion
http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/

Internet Sacred Text Archive
http://www.sacred-texts.com/world.htm
(Retrieved on June 1, 2010)

Map of world religions
http://www.wamware.com/world-religions/images/map.gif
(Retrieved on June 1, 2010)

Major religions of the world ranked by number of adherents
http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html
(Retrieved on June 1, 2010)

Zoroastrianism
Avesta-Zoroastrianism
http://www.avesta.org/avesta.html
(Retrieved on June 1, 2010)

Table/Topics & Assignments

Types of Assignments:

Lecture -
Considered Lecture Hours

Classroom Discussion -
Considered Lecture Hours

In Class Critique -
Considered Lecture Hours

Delivering Oral Presentations -
Considered Lecture Hours

In Class (IC) Exercise -
Considered Lecture Hours

Reading -
Considered Homework, work done outside of class

WebClass lesson (non-online courses) -
Considered Homework, work done outside of class

Lab Work -
Considered Lab Hours

Quiz, Midterm or Final -
Considered Lecture Hours

Week 1						
Type	**Topic/Description**	**LEC Hours**	**LAB Hours**	**HW Hours**	**Point Value**	**Due**
LEC 1A	Introduction to Course Materials	1	--	--	--	
LEC 1B	Understanding the World's Religious Heritage	3	--	--	--	
HW 1A	Read Chapter 1 (25 pages). Evaluated by HW 1C: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	2.5	--	
HW 1B	Term Paper	--	--	3	200	Week 8
HW 1C	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 2
Total Week 1		4	0	7.5	200	
Week 2						
Type	**Topic/Description**	**LEC Hours**	**LAB Hours**	**HW Hours**	**Point Value**	**Due**

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
IC EX 2A	Religion in the News	1	--	--	--	
LEC 2A	Religions of Prehistoric and Tribal Peoples	2	--	--	--	
LEC 2B	Library Workshop	1	--	--	--	
HW 2A	Read Chapter 2 (25 pages). Evaluated by HW 2C: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	2.5	--	
HW 2B	Webliography	--	--	2	50	Week 3
HW 2C	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 3
Total Week 2		4	0	6.5	50	

Week 3						
Type	**Topic/Description**	**LEC Hours**	**LAB Hours**	**HW Hours**	**Point Value**	**Due**
IC EX 3A	Religion in the News	1	--	--	--	
LEC 3A	Hindusim	3	--	--	--	
HW 3A	Read Chapter 3 (58 pages) Evaluated by HW 3C: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	6	--	
HW 3B	Religion Comparison Chart	--	--	2	50	Week 4
HW 3C	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 4
Total Week 3		4	0	10	50	

Week 4						
Type	**Topic/Description**	**LEC Hours**	**LAB Hours**	**HW Hours**	**Point Value**	**Due**
IC EX 4A	Religion in the News	1	--	--	--	
LEC 4A	Buddhism	3	--	--	--	
HW 4A	Read Chapter 4 (54 pages). Evaluated by HW 4D: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	5	--	
HW 4B	RSV/Alternate	--	--	3	50	Week 6
HW 4D	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 6

| Total Week 4 | | 4 | 0 | 10 | 50 | |

Week 5

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 5A	Religions of East Asia	2	--	--	--	
EXAM 5A	Midterm Exam	2	--	--	150	
HW 5A	Read Chapter 5 (66 pages). Evaluated by HW 5B: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	7	--	
HW 5B	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 6
Total Week 5		4	0	9	150	

Week 6

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
IC EX 6A	Religion in the News	1	--	--	--	
LEC 6A	Judaism	3	--	--	--	
HW 6A	Read Chapters 6 & 7 (46 pages) Evaluated by HW 6C: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	4.5	--	
HW 6B	Monotheism vs. Polytheism	--	--	2	50	Week 7
HW 6C	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 7
Total Week 6		4	0	8.5	50	

Week 7

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 7A	Christianity	3	--	--	--	
IC EX 7A	Religion in the News	1	--	--	--	
HW 7A	Read Chapter 8 (82 pages) Evaluated by HW 7C: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	8	--	
HW 7B	Christian Sect Summary	--	--	2	50	Week 8

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
HW 7C	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 8
Total Week 7		4	0	12	50	

Week 8

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 8A	Islam	3	--	--	--	
IC EX 8A	Religion in the News	1	--	--	--	
HW 8A	Read Chapter 9 (76 pages). Evaluated by HW 8C: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	7.5		
HW 8B	Adopt a Pillar of Islam	--	--	2	50	Week 9
HW 8C	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 9
Total Week 8		4	0	11.5	50	

Week 9

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
IC EX 9A	Religion in the News	1	--	--	--	
LEC 9A	Emerging Movements in Religion	3	--	--	--	
HW 9A	Read Chapter 10 & 11 (30 pages). Evaluated by HW 9B: Find Two Articles Based on Themes	--	--	3	--	
HW 9B	Find Two (2) News Articles Based on the Themes from this Week's Readings	--	--	2	--	Week 10
Total Week 9		4	0	5	0	

Week 10

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 10A	Future of Religion	2	--	--	--	
IC EX 10A	Religion in the News	1	--	--	--	
EXAM 10A	Final Exam	1	--	--	250	
Total Week 10		4	0	0	250	

Course Hours Summary

Week	Topic	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours
1	Understanding the World's Religious Heritage	4	0	7.5
2	Religions of Prehistoric and Tribal Peoples	4	0	6.5
3	Hinduism	4	0	10
4	Buddhism	4	0	10
5	Religions of East Asia	4	0	9
6	Judaism	4	0	8.5
7	Christianity	4	0	12
8	Islam	4	0	11.5
9	Emerging Movements in Religion	4	0	5
10	The Future of Religion	4	0	0
Total		40	0	80

Table/Point Breakdown

Week	Assignment	Possible Points	Percent of Grade
3	Webliography	50	5%
4	Religion Comparison Chart	50	5%
5	Midterm Exam	150	15%
6	RSV/Alternate	50	5%
7	Monotheism vs. Polytheism	50	5%
8	Christian Sect Summary	50	5%
8	Term Paper	200	20%
9	Adopt a Pillar of Islam	50	5%
10	Final Exam	250	25%
	Participation	100	10%
Total		1000	100%

Your Grades for this Course

Your final grade for this course will be based on an assessment by the Instructor of your performance on a number of course activities, which may include objective tests, classroom exercises, laboratory demonstrations, project papers, or other types of activities. The chart below indicates in what activities you will engage, how many possible points can be earned for each activity, and the percentage of your final grade that will be accounted for by each activity.

Students in this course should be graded following Coleman University assessment practices and policies. A point system is used in the University to indicate student performance on various required activities or projects. For this course, it is recommended that points be distributed as follows:

Coleman University Grade Assignment Policy:
The Coleman University guidelines for the assignment of grades to total points earned is as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points
A	94% - 100%	4.00
A-	90% - 93%	3.67
B+	87% - 89%	3.33
B	84% - 86%	3.00
B-	80% - 83%	2.67
C+	77% - 79%	2.33
C	74% - 76%	2.00
C-	70% - 73%	1.67
D+	67% - 69%	1.33
D	64% - 66%	1.00
D-	60% - 63%	0.67
F	0% - 59%	0.00
INC	N/A	0.00
W	N/A	0.00
CR	60%	0.00
NC	59%	0.00
PASS	85%	0.00

Requirements

Assignments: All assignments (including projects, lab work, quizzes and exams) must be completed as scheduled. The following will apply to late assignments:

- 1-24 hours after due date = 20% off point value
- 25-48 hours after due date = 60% off point value
- 49+ hours after due date = No points given

If an assignment equals less than 5 points, no points will be given for late work. If there are extenuating circumstances, the student must submit a written explanation to the department Senior Instructor. Upon evaluation, points will be given according to the Senior Instructor's discretion.

Attendance: Classes begin and end as indicated in the published schedule. It is required that students be present at the beginning of each class session and stay until class is dismissed, including lab periods. Excessive tardiness, leaving early and/or absences (from either lecture or lab sessions) are causes for dismissal from the course. A student that arrives in class beyond 30 minutes late may be considered absent. A student that leaves over 30 minutes before the end of class may also be considered absent. Excused absences will be determined by the instructors and approved by the Dean of Academics & Director of Student Services. Students may be removed from the course(s) based on the following absence guidelines:

4 Unit Course – Allowed 2 absences per 10-week MOD (3rd absence may be excused by DOA & DOSS)

5 Unit Course – Allowed 2 absences per 5-week MOD (3rd absence may be excused by DOA & DOSS)

8 Unit Course – Allowed 5 absences per 10-week MOD (6th absence may be excused by DOA & DOSS)

Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner while on campus. Rules of conduct are outlined in the University Catalog and students are required to adhere to such policies. Students who are in violation of the Student Code of Conduct Policy can be suspended.

Coleman University Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is cause for dismissal from Coleman University. Presenting another person's ideas, methods, course work, or test answers with the intention that they be taken as one's own is theft of a special kind. It defrauds the originator of the work, the institution, its graduates, its students, and its future students.

The student has full responsibility for the authenticity of all academic work and examinations submitted. A student who appears to have violated this policy must submit to a hearing with the reporting instructor and the associate dean. If it is determined that a violation occurred, the matter will be referred to an Officer of the University with recommendations for an appropriate penalty. The student may be dismissed, suspended, or given another penalty.

Coleman University employs the plagiarism software known as Turnitin. Students are expected to use this tool in an appropriate manner with the sole purpose to support their own academic endeavors at Coleman University. Turnitin account information can not be shared with anyone. Contact your instructor if you have any questions about plagiarism related issues.

Academic Accommodation / Adjustment Policy:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Coleman University offers accommodations to students with documented physical, psychological, and/or cognitive disabilities. Coleman University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to offer equal educational opportunities to qualified disabled individuals.

To qualify for an academic accommodation under ADA, the student must provide adequate documentation of a disability. Students seeking academic accommodations should contact the campus ADA Coordinator, Ariana Marron, at 858-966-3953 or via email at ada@coleman.edu. The ADA Coordinator will review the documentation provided and verify ADA coverage. Students covered under ADA must meet with the ADA Coordinator at the beginning of every term to determine the appropriate academic accommodations. Failing to meet with the ADA Coordinator at the beginning of every term may impact the availability of accommodations.

After the academic accommodations have been determined, the students' instructors will be notified by the ADA Coordinator. If any problems or concerns regarding the provision of accommodations occur, the student must inform the ADA Coordinator. If the student feels accommodation is not being made appropriately, the student may follow the published Student Grievance Procedures.