GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 150 - ASIAN RELIGIONS

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

RELG 150 Asian Religions 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

This course provides an overview of the variety of religious traditions and communities found throughout Asia. Students comparatively examine the beliefs, scriptures, world-views, rituals, ethics, and social systems of the religious traditions and communities throughout Asia.

4. Course Objectives

a. Analyze the world-view involved in each of the religious traditions studied

b. Identify the major components of the belief systems of each of the religious traditions studied

c. Analyze the historical development of each of the religious traditions studied

d. Distinguish the worship, ethics, and institutional structures of each of the religious traditions

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

a. The nature of religious life

1. Definitions

2. Various dimensions of religious life

b. Tribal religious life as found in Asia

1. Animism

2. Chinese folk religion

3. Shamanism

4. Archaic Asian Religious Life

c. The Beginnings of South Asian Religion

1. The Geographical and Cultural Divergence of the Region

2. The Indus Valley Culture and Its Religion

3. The Vedas

4. The Structure of the Vedic Ritual

5. The Foundations of the Traditional Hindu Social Order

* 1. 6. The Emergence of the Hindu Wisdom Tradition

7. The Upanishads

8. The Ascetic Tradition

9. Meditation

10. The Six Schools of Indian Philosophy

d. Hindu Devotionalism

1. The Nature of Devotion

2. Siva, Devi, and Vishnu

e. Jainism

1. Mahavira and the Rise of Jainism

2. The Principle Tenets of Jainism

3. The "Three Jewels"

4. Monastic and Lay Life

f. Sikhism

1. Nanah and the Origin of Sikhism

2. Development of Sikhism

3. Sikh and the Modern World

g. Buddhism

1. The Life and Teachings of the Buddha

2. Early Buddhist Philosophy

3. The Emergence of the Sangha and Lay Buddhism

4. The Rise of Mahayana Buddhism

5. Developments in Buddhist Philosophy

6. The Rise of Buddhist Devotionalism

7. Tibetan Buddhism

8. The Decline of Buddhism in India

9. Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia

10, The Spread of Buddhism Worldwide

h. The Religious Life of China

1. The Chinese Family as Social Basis

2. Mohism and Legalism

3. The Origins of Confucianism

(a) Sources

(b) Early Development

4. Neo-Confucianism

5. The Chinese Transformation of Buddhism

i. Daoism

1. Philosophical Daosim

2. Religious Daoism

3. Yin/Yang

4. Religion

j. Religion in Korea

1. The Indigenous Religious Traditions of Korea

2. The Development of Korean Confucianism and Daoism

3. Buddhism in Korea

k. The Religious Life of Japan

1. The Importance of Geography and Early Culture in Japanese Religion

2. Early Japanese Myths and Traditions

3. The Emergence of Buddhism

4. Contemporary Japanese Religious Life

l. Shintoism

1. Early Shinto

2. Mythology of the Kami

3. Relationship to Japanese Culture

4. Moral Code

m. Zen and Pure Land

1. Budhidharma

2. Koan, Zazen, Sanzen

3. Rinzai and Soto

4. Doctrine

8. Method of Instruction

a. Individualized instruction

b. Individualized feedback on student work

c. Group Discussion

d. Student presentations

e. Guest speakers

f. instructional videos

g. Lecture

h. Field Trips

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Short essay assignments, such as response papers to sacred text passages, or explanations of how scripture passages demonstrate core concepts of the religions.

b. Quizzes

c. Midterm and final exams entailing writing and objective components.

d.Special projects, such as visits to local houses of worship or interviews of community members who practice these traditions.

e. Papers, such as comparisons of concepts and practices across Asian religious traditions

f. Journals

g. Research projects, such as researching how understanding of a core concept changed over the course of the tradition’s history, or on how practices have changed as traditions moved into non-Asian cultures

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Read portions of sacred texts in preparation for analysis in class.

b. Write short essay assignments, such as personal response essays to sacred text passages, analysis of connections between core concepts in the religion and its sacred texts

c. Research to prepare for in-class projects, such as comparison of core concepts and practices across religious traditions, tracing how understanding of a concept has changed over the tradition’s history

d. Interviews of community or family members

e. Working with other Students on group projects, such as attending services at local Buddhist or Hindu temples and give presentation on the group’s experiences.

11. Representative Texts

a. RepresentativeText(s):

1) Coward, Harold, Ronald Neufeldt and Eva K. Neumaier.  *Readings in Eastern Religions*. New York, NY: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2006.

2) Hawkins, Bradley K. *Introduction to Asian Religions*. New York, NY: Longman Publishers, 2004.

3) Oxtoby, Willard G. and Alan Segal, *A Concise Introduction to World Religions: Eastern Traditions.* USA: Oxford University Press, 2007.

4) Van Voorst, Robert E., *Anthology of World Scriptures*. USA: Wadsworth, 2010.

5) Brod, Jeffrey, et al.*Invitation to Asian Religions.* Illustrated ed., Oxford University Press, 2016.

6) Kassam, Zayn R., ed. *Women and Asian Religions*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger Publishers, 2017.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and explain at least two aspects of the world-view held by the Asian tradition(s) being studied.

2. Compare and contrast at least two features distinguishing the major branches of each religion.

3. Explain at least two major events in the development of the Asian tradition(s) being studied.

4. Place or differentiate himself/herself/themselves from the Asian religion traditions by comparing the existing religious views to those learned in this course.