

EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE

Introduction to Religion

Fall 2013

Course Title: Introduction to Religion
Course Number: RELI 1000, Section 40/90
Credit Hours: 3 semester hours
Meeting Times & Location: INET
Instructor: Heidi Edmunds, MAE, LPC
Office Location: Faculty Office Link, Room 209
Telephone: (307)532-8296 or 1-800-658-3195, ext. 8296
Email: Please utilize the Journal tool in *LancerNet* to contact me in regards to this course.

Office Hours:

Monday9:00—10:00 am
Tuesday.....9:00—10:30 am
Wednesday.....2:00—3:00 pm
Thursday.....9:00—10:30 am
Friday.....by appointment

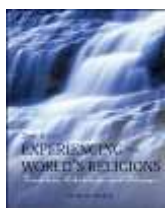
Please contact me by phone, email, or in person to schedule appointments outside of regular office hours. Drop-ins are welcome.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND RATIONALE:

An introduction to world religions. A multidisciplinary approach is utilized to investigate the similarities and differences that exist between a variety of religions.

****Prerequisite:** ENGL 1010 with a grade of “C” or better.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:



- Molloy, M. (2010). *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change, 6e*. New York: McGraw Hill.
- ISBN: 9780078038273

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to introduce you to the major religions of the world—Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. At the end of the course, you will have increased your awareness of the important elements of the major religions—their myth, symbols, ritual, doctrine, moral codes, and artistic expression. You will recognize the differences among the religious traditions. You will better understand the religious issues and conflicts in the modern world. You will have a deepened appreciation of your own religious background and that of the community in which you live.

ATTENDANCE/WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

This class is offered online therefore there will not be any required class meeting dates. However, it is the responsibility of each student to sign on to *LancerNet* regularly and complete and submit assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. on time.

Please note EWC's attendance policy in the *Eastern Wyoming College Catalog*, which authorizes an instructor to withdraw a student from a course when: a) the student is absent for more than 20% of scheduled sessions, b) the student has been absent for six consecutive class hours, or c) the student has not completed 20% of assigned learning activities.

Students may choose to withdraw from this class and receive no credit with a grade of **W** before 4 pm on **Thursday, December 5**. While I am authorized to withdraw students who fail to attend and participate in class, be aware that **I will not necessarily withdraw a student who abandons this class**. It is your responsibility to initiate the withdrawal process if you wish to be removed from the class. *Any arrangements to receive a W in the class must be made prior to the last day to drop regular classes*. Please refer to the EWC Catalog for more information regarding the withdrawal procedure. Any changes to this policy will be made on an individual basis, and will be agreed upon by the instructor and student prior to the last day to withdraw from individual classes.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

It is expected that students conduct themselves with respect for fellow students, faculty, and the institution at all times. You are to complete all reading and assigned activities, participate actively in discussions, and submit work on time.

Guidelines for instructor communication:

Please note that I will be employing the Journal tool within LancerNet, and I will be using this system to contact you as well. Any correspondence initiated by me will be through this tool, so please begin checking it immediately and continue frequently. You will receive notification from LancerNet when you have new Journal messages. I cannot guarantee a response to any communication that is not directed to me in this manner, including email.

Please indicate the assignment, exam, or other material that you are referring to in the Topic line of each Journal entry (e.g. Unit 3 Assignment or Unit 5 Video). It is essential that you use proper capitalization, spelling, and grammar when contacting me. You should consider any correspondence you have with me to be professional and conduct yourself accordingly. If you do not use the Journal tool as means of communication with me, I cannot guarantee my response.

You can access the Journal tool in LancerNet by clicking on the "My Journal" link in the Student Tools menu along the left side of your screen when on the course homepage.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty of any form including but not limited to plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. The instructor reserves the right to not accept assignments that do not reflect the work of each individual student. Students may receive a grade of zero for a specific assignment or an F in the class depending on the type of offense. Each occurrence will be dealt with on an individual basis and at the discretion of the instructor. Please refer to the EWC Student Handbook for more information on EWC's policy on Academic Dishonesty.

Turnitin© is a cloud-based service utilized by EWC for originality checking, including improper citations or potential plagiarism. Any work you complete in this course may be submitted to this service. You can view information regarding Turnitin's privacy policy at http://www.turnitin.com/en_us/privacy-center/overview.

COURSEWORK:

Course material will be delivered and assessed via *LancerNet* by various means including lecture notes; reading assignments; threaded discussion, journaling, or blogging; assignments; written papers and projects; videos; and quizzes and exams. It is expected that each assigned task be completed within the designated timeframe; full credit will not be awarded for late assignments. Extra credit may take the form of special assignments available to all students.

Reading Quizzes

Reading quizzes will be administered via *LancerNet*. They will correspond to each chapter in your textbook and are designed to insure that you are reading thoroughly and comprehending information from your book. The quizzes

are untimed and it is acceptable to use your book when completing the quizzes. You will have the opportunity to take the reading quizzes 2 times before the final due date. The highest score from all attempts will be retained. **Late or missed submissions will not be accepted.** If you have technical difficulties, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor and make proper arrangements prior to the due date. One of your lowest quiz scores will be dropped when calculating your final grade.

** As with all technology, there is a potential for problems. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments or complete quizzes. Technical difficulties will not be accepted as an excuse for missed assignments or missed quizzes.

Examinations

Exams will be available on *LancerNet* for a designated amount of time. There will be three mandatory exams during the semester and an optional final exam. The score on the final exam can be used to replace your lowest score on one of the earlier exams. You may choose not to take the final if you have not missed a previous exam and are satisfied with your scores on the other three. Exam questions will primarily be drawn from reading quizzes, your text, lectures, and videos. Proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation are requisite. Unless otherwise noted, it is expected that you take each exam without the assistance of your book, notes, or other resources (i.e. your classmates) Exams will be timed and must be completed within the designated timeframe. The optional final is comprehensive and will consist of questions from all chapters. All exams, including the final are worth 100 points. **Because only three exams are required, I will not allow any late exams to be submitted.** Please see the Course Schedule for exam dates.

Assignments

There will be assignments to be completed throughout the semester. Please see the Course Schedule for assignment information.

Video Assignments and Responses

Most units have an associated video or videos assigned. These videos vary in length, supplement and enhance the unit topic, and are required. In addition to viewing each video, you should post a response to the Message Board. Detailed instructions for Video Responses are available within each unit. Links to the videos are provided within each unit. Please insure that you are able to access the videos early in the week and contact me if you have technical problems.

Research Project

A research project will be completed during the semester. Students will work individually to complete and present a research-based project. Information on the project will be provided during the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

| <u>Percentage</u> | <u>Letter Grade</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 90 – 100% | A |
| 80 – <90% | B |
| 70 – <80% | C |
| 60 – <70% | D |
| 00 – <60% | F |

I reserve the right to make adjustments to grades on any assigned coursework in order to correct unintentional errors or unfairness. These adjustments will not be to the detriment of the student.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

- *Communication Skills:* Graduates will be able to understand and communicate ideas and information in written and spoken English that reveals a mastery of terminology appropriate to their disciplines.
- *Analytical and Quantitative Reasoning:* Graduates will be able to solve problems through critical thinking involving analytical and quantitative reasoning at a level appropriate to their disciplines.
- *Technology Skills:* Graduates will be able to demonstrate competence using technology appropriate to their disciplines.
- *Social Awareness:* Graduates will be able to demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between the individual and the world.
- *Information Literacy:* Graduates will be able to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS:

Eastern Wyoming College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If a student has a disability and desires a reasonable accommodation for such disability, the student should contact Mrs. Debra Ochsner (532-8238) or Mr. Stuart Nelson (532-8330) as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

Information contained in this syllabus is, to the best knowledge of the instructor, correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the course. However, this syllabus should not be considered a contract between Eastern Wyoming College and the student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of EWC, to make changes in course materials and course schedules.