

Syllabus

Introduction to World Religions

Course Overview

This one-semester course is intended to help you understand the origin, beliefs, and practices related to various world religions.

This course includes 14 lessons and 5 Course Activities. Each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities. The lessons cover the following topics:

- The first lesson introduces the concept of religion and discusses different approaches to studying world religions.
- The next lesson discusses the origins, beliefs, and practices related to some primal religions.
- The next eleven lessons discuss the origins, beliefs, and practices related to various world religions.
- The final lesson discusses the origins, beliefs, and practices related to some contemporary religious movements.

You will submit the Course Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with sample responses. Each lesson also has a multiple-choice mastery test. A multiple-choice end-of-semester test completes the course.

The Course Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are major components of this course. They will guide your learning as you work through this course.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Understand the concept of religion and its purpose.
- Explore different approaches to studying world religions.
- Trace the origins and history of various world religions.
- Familiarize yourself with the beliefs and practices of different world religions.
- Identify religious texts, symbols, and places.
- Discuss the contributions of some famous personalities to world religions.

Prerequisite Skills

Introduction to World Religions is a beginner's course and does not have specific prerequisites. Nevertheless, these fundamental skills will be helpful:

- basic computer skills
- ability to structure and process information

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Introduction to World Religions is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
1 day:	Course Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	
4 days: 2-5	What is Religion? <i>Define religion and discuss various concepts related to different religions.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
4 days: 6-9	Primal Religious Traditions <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to various primal religions.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 10	Sacred Stories	Course Discussion
3 days: 11-13	Creating a Personal Totem	Course Activity
5 days: 14-18	Hinduism <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Hinduism.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 19	Space Jumble	Activity
5 days: 20-24	Buddhism <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Buddhism.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 25-27	Little Buddha	Course Activity
4 days: 28-31	Jainism <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Jainism.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 32-35	Zoroastrianism <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Zoroastrianism.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 36	Para Jumble	Activity
5 days: 37-41	Judaism <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Judaism.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 42	Searching for the Truth	Course Discussion
5 days: 43-47	Christianity <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Christianity.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 48-52	Islam <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Islam.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 53	Personal Jihad	Course Discussion
1 day: 54	Space Jumble	Activity

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
3 days: 55-57	Mystical Branches of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam	Course Activity
4 days: 58-61	Sikhism <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Sikhism.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 62-65	Confucianism <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Confucianism.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 66	Para Jumble	Activity
4 days: 67-70	Taoism <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Taoism.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 71-74	Shinto <i>Discuss the origin, beliefs, and practices related to Shinto.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 75	Asian Traditions	Course Discussion
3 days: 76-78	Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto	Course Activity
4 days: 79-82	Contemporary Religious Movements <i>Discuss the origins, beliefs, and practices related to some of the contemporary religious movements.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 83	Religious Beliefs	Course Discussion
1 day: 84	Space Jumble	Activity
4 days: 85-88	The World Religions Summary	Course Activity
1 day: 89	Course Review	
1 day: 90	End of Course Test	Assessment