

## STANDARDIZED COURSE OUTLINE

### SECTION I

**SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER:** HUM G299 – 3382-01

**COURSE TITLE:** Contemporary World Religions

**COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Survey of a variety of contemporary world religious groups, using lectures, readings from “sacred writings” and other texts, and class discussions to understand both the uniqueness and the commonality of differing traditions.

**LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK:** 3

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**LAB HOURS PER WEEK:** NA

**PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of English 101

### SECTION II

#### **A. SCOPE**

This course is a survey of major religious groups, including a brief history, key leaders, rites and rituals, status in the contemporary world. Selections from the “sacred writings” will be used to compare religious views on some human qualities/behavior, such as compassion and justice; varying views on contemporary social problems will be examined and discussed. A segment on interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and fanaticism will be followed by a brief examination on how to recognize symptoms of a “cult” and speculation about the future of “organized religion.”

**B. REQUIRED WORK:** Readings with notes as assigned, participation in class discussions, 2 short papers (750 words each), one visual project, one major paper (3000 words), open book final examination.

**C. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Regular attendance and class participation are expected. Specific instructions are listed in class syllabus.

**D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:** Lectures, class discussion, sharing of written work, guest speakers from various religious traditions.

#### **E. OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, and ASSESSMENT**

The following objectives and outcomes represent the department’s core requirements for student achievement:

<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES:</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT METHOD:</b>
<b>To demonstrate understanding of:</b>	<b>Students will</b>	<b>As measured by</b>
Responsibility for full class participation	+ attend regularly and on time + complete assigned readings + take initiative in asking for help, clarifying assignments, asking for make-up work	attendance records assignment records record of on-time completion of work
Variety of contemporary religious traditions	+ Write two short reflection papers + Prepare one visual	assignment records class discussion
Similarities and differences of traditions studied	+ Present major paper integrating knowledge of one religious tradition with broader issue of world religion	assignment records final exam

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#### **F. TEXT(S) AND MATERIALS**

Huston Smith, The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions (San Francisco: Harper, 1995). 254 pages. ISBN: 0060674407 (\$24.99 list)

**G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** optional