

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Undergraduate Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Core Category: Humanities Effective Fall 2011

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or

**Graduate/Professional Studies Council**  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Effective Fall 2011

APPROVED FEB 23 2011

1. Department: RELS College: CLASS

2. Faculty Contact Person: Lynn Mitchell Telephone: 3-3213 Email: lemitchell@uh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:

• Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:

RELS / 1301 / Introduction to Religious Studies

RECEIVED OCT 15 2010

• Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)

RELS / 1301 / INTRO TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

• SCH: 3.0 Level: FR CIP Code: 38.0201.00 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements

5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course?  Yes  No

If Yes, please complete:

• Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

• Course ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date (currently active row): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): RELS

• Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department?  Yes  No

• Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments?  Yes  No

• Can the course be repeated for credit?  Yes  No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)


8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title

RELS / 1301 / Introduction to Religious Studies

• Course ID: 41371 Effective Date (currently active row): 8162000

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)

Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1304 or ENGL 1310. Description (30 words max.): Thematic and comparative approach to the study of religion as an aspect of human experience from the perspective of various disciplines. Historical and philosophical traditions explored.

10. Dean's Signature: 

Date: 10/2/10

Print/Type Name: Sarah Fishman

U N I V E R S I T Y *of* H O U S T O N  
CORE CURRICULUM REQUEST FOR COURSES NEW TO THE CORE

Originating Department/College: CLASS / Religious Studies

Person making request: Lynn Mitchell Telephone: 3-3213

E-mail: lemitchell@uh.edu

Dean's signature:  Date: 10/12/10

**I. General Information:**

**Course number and title:** RELS 1301 Introduction to Religious Studies

**Catalog description** must be included on completed CBM 003 form and attached to this document.

**Category of Core** for which course is being proposed (mark only one):

- Communication
- Mathematics
- Mathematics/Reasoning (IDO)
- American History
- Government
- Humanities
- Visual/Performing Arts Critical
- Visual/Performing Arts Experiential
- Natural Sciences
- Social/Behavioral Sciences
- Writing in the Disciplines (IDO)

**II. Objectives and Evaluation (respond on one or more separate sheets):**

**Call ext. 3-0919 for a copy of "Guidelines for Requesting and Evaluating Core Courses" or visit the website at [www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum](http://www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum)**

- A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see **Guidelines**). Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.
- B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.
- C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.

**SVP. Effective 8/23/10. Replaces all previous forms, which may no longer be used.**

- A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see **Guidelines**). Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.

**Exemplary Educational Objectives:**

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

**The course, as an introduction to the study of religion, will cover many traditions. At least one western and one non-western tradition will be explored.**

2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

**Research paper will involve researching relevant news articles, interviewing sources, seeking research encompassing both historical background information and contemporary analysis**

5. To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the humanities and arts.

**Presentations and lecture will include excerpts directly from the respective tradition's primary sources and recognized material and may also include recognized officials as guest speakers for respective tradition.**

6. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

**The research paper and tests will require the students to complete a comprehensive analysis of material covered during lecture and required writing assignments.**

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- B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.

**Tests will be primarily short answer (one paragraph or less)**

**Research Paper will be divided into smaller components of deliverables, with feedback and coaching offered at each interval**

- 1. Topic Selection**
- 2. Sources**
- 3. Rough Draft**
- 4. Final Draft**

**“Extra Credit” will be offered, which will require students to visit religious communities and complete an analysis form of the visit.**

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- C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.

**As the course has developed over a number of years, we have implemented changes in response to the course evaluation results, including more assistance for students with developing research-oriented writing, recruiting more guest speakers to present perspectives of their tradition, implementing technology to keep pace with student interests, and creating opportunities outside of the classroom for students to experience religion in its environment. We will continue to re-evaluate the course, keeping it relevant and up-to-date with current research. Student achievement levels will draw attention to teaching deficiencies and we will adjust as often as needed.**

# RELS 1301 – Introduction to Religious Studies – Fall 2011

OK 4/10/12/10

Instructor:  
Email:  
Office Hours:

Telephone  
Office:  
Class Meets:

## Course Description:

An introduction to the study of religion, including the historical roots of the discipline and the contributions of major figures in the fields of sociology, psychology, anthropology, and phenomenology, as well as a survey of the traditions and beliefs of a number of world religions. Students will be encouraged to deepen their understandings of their own and others' religious beliefs, and to appreciate more fully the ways in which religion shapes society at its deepest levels.

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain selected sayings, stories, theological concepts, and events of the included historical and philosophical religions, with a view to their original culture and context.
- Articulate how these texts and ideas have shaped individuals and culture, specifically in religion, literature, politics, art, civil rights, economics, health care, education, ethics, and music.
- Identify, research and present a developed, college-level essay that clearly identifies the question to be answered and the sources extracted and how they contribute to answering the question.

## Required Texts:

A World Religions Reader. Ian Markham, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2009) ISBN: 978-1-4051-7109-0

**Tests:** Will be primarily short answer (one paragraph or less)

Will cover both lectures and assigned reading to date,

(with particular attention to the 'fact sheets' at the end of each chapter).

Will be 'open notes.'

(You may use handwritten notes from lectures and/or readings, no typed pages or photocopies).

## Course Grading:

Attendance	15 pts
Tests	25 pts each
Research Paper	35 pts
Possible Extra Credit	20 pts
<b>Grading Scale:</b>	
A = 94+	A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86
B- = 80-83	C = 75-79
D = 70-74	F = below 70

## Research Paper on Religious Extremism and/or Intolerance in the Contemporary World

1. Narrow your focus to extremism/intolerance in or of a particular faith tradition as it relates to a particular and current cultural/political/social context. **Turn in your paper topic by September 9<sup>th</sup>**
2. Spend considerable time on your research, looking for relevant news articles, interviewing sources, seeking both historical background information and contemporary analysis. You should have at least 12 broadly diverse sources. (Lectures, interviews, books, newspapers or magazines, internet, etc.) You may not use about.com or Wikipedia or similar sources in your paper. **Create an annotated bibliography of the sources you intend to cite in your paper.** An annotated bibliography is a list of the works you intend to cite that has narrative content about the nature of the work and its relevance to your paper. **This is due on September 30<sup>th</sup>...**
3. Make a **detailed outline or write a rough draft** of your paper to review in your research consultation. Your paper should include both information and analysis, using the various ways of studying religion discussed in class. **This is due on October 14<sup>th</sup>.**
4. Minimum Length: 3000 words. **Style:** MLA or APA
5. Turn in your paper by WebCT by at least 30 minutes before class begins on the due date (**November 4<sup>th</sup>**) **AND** bring a printed copy to the instructor at the beginning of class. Make sure you include your name!

**Late Papers – Lose 20 points if turned in by class on November 9th. Papers later than that will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

**Works Cited = Less than 8 different acceptable sources, automatic 10 point deduction; Less than 7 different acceptable sources, 15 point deduction; Less than 6 different acceptable sources 20 point deduction; Less than 5 different acceptable sources, your grade will be a zero**

**Word count = 2500-2999 words = 10 point deduction; Word count= 1500-2499 = 25 point deduction; Word count= 1000 – 1499 = 40 point deduction Word count= less than 999 = your grade will be a ZERO**

## Extra Credit:

1. Visit a worshipping religious community not of your own tradition (if any) and write a one page reflection on the experience using insights gleaned from the lectures and readings. This is worth 1 extra point added to your final average. You may do this up to 10 times per semester.
2. Additional opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class throughout the semester

# RELS 1301 – Introduction to Religious Studies – Fall 2011

**Required Reading:** Readings should be completed by class on Thursday during the week assigned.

## Week 1: August 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

Course outline, defining religion, from theology to religious studies  
WRR Introduction & Chapter 1

## Week 2: August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 2<sup>nd</sup>

David Hume, Sociology: August Comte  
WRR Chapter 2

## Week 3: September 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

Sociology: Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber; Peter Berger, Rodney Stark  
WRR Chapter 14

**Thursday: Topic Summary Due**

## Week 4: September 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

Psychology: William James, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung  
(Reading & research for term paper)

## Week 5: September 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

Anthropology: Claude Levi-Strauss  
(Reading & Research for term paper)

## Week 6: September 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Phenomenology: Immanuel Kant, Rudolph Otto, Mircea Eliade  
(Reading & research for term paper)

**Thursday: Annotated Bibliography Due**

## Week 7: October 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday – Test Review – bring your class notes in order, a pen, and a highlighter.

**Thursday – Midterm Exam**

## Week 8: October 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Hinduism & Jainism  
WRR Chapters 3 & 4

**Thursday: Detailed Outline or Rough Draft of Paper Due**

## Week 9: October 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

Buddhism, Chinese Religion  
WRR Chapters 5 & 6

## Week 10: October 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

Judaism  
WRR Chapter 9

## Week 11: November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

Christianity  
WRR Chapter 10

**Thursday, Paper Due: Turn in hard copy in class and WebCT/ Turn it In BEFORE class.**

## Week 12: November 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

Islam  
WRR Chapter 11

## Week 14: November 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Zoroastrianism, Sikhism, WRR Chapters 8 & 12, 13

## Week 15: November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Emerging Religions

## Week 16: November 30<sup>th</sup> & December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Tuesday, Test Review

**Thursday, Test 2**