

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Undergraduate Council
 New Course Course Change
 Core Category: Lang/Phil/Culture Effective Fall 2014

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council
 New Course Course Change
 Effective Fall 2013

- Department: RELS College: CLASS
- Faculty Contact Person: Lynn Mitchell Telephone: 3-3213 Email: lemitchell@uh.edu
- Course Information on New/Revised course:
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
RELS / 1301 / Introduction to Religious Studies
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)
RELS / 1301 / INTRO TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES
 - SCH: 3.00 Level: FR CIP Code: 38.0201.00 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0
- Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements
- Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? Yes No
If Yes, please complete:

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- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
____ / ____ / _____
- Course ID: _____ Effective Date (currently active row): _____

- 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.)

- 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: 41372 Effective Date (currently active row): 1172012

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)
 Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1304 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: 10/9/12
 Print/Type Name: _____

REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: Comparative Cultural Studies/RELS

Person Making Request: Lynn Mitchell

Telephone: 3-3213

Email: lemitchell@uh.edu

Dean's Signature: _____

Date: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Course Number and Title: RELS 1301: Introduction to Religious Studies

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

*Students will be able to demonstrate a familiarity of the major religions, including major contributions of figures across disciplines.

*Students will be able to analyze primary sources and use these sources as evidence to support their understanding of historical events as well as cultural ideas, values, and beliefs.

*Students will be able to identify, evaluate, and appropriately cite online and print resources.

*Students will be able to communicate effectively their understanding of the ways in which religion shapes society at its deepest levels.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

Communication

American History

Mathematics

Government/Political

Science

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Social & Behavioral Science

Creative Arts

Component Area Option

Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication Skills

Social Responsibility

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

Critical Thinking:

Students will arrange visits with at least 7 worshipping religious communities of various traditions (not of their own).

For each visit, student will submit a 3+ page reflection on the experience which

- a. records your observations in detail,
- b. notes explanations from participants about how they understand their religious rituals,
- c. includes insights gleaned from lectures
- d. includes background information from the text
- e. has attached a relevant news article with a publication date within the semester (relevant to that particular religious tradition or faith community).

Communication Skills:

In the same seven reports as above, student will demonstrate ability to communicate effectively through written form.

Empirical & Quantitative Skills:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Teamwork:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Social Responsibility:

In the same seven reports as above, student will evaluate and explain issues of social responsibility as it relates to religion.

Personal Responsibility:

In the same seven reports as above, student will evaluate and explain issues of personal responsibility as it relates to religion.


Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course? Yes No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:

The writing requirement of comparing/contrasting different religions and synthesizing with information presented in texts and lectures and relating with current media events will be constant across sections.

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature: _____  _____
Rey Trevino for Lynn Mitchell

RELS 1301 – Introduction to Religious Studies – Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson

Email: ucmgh@uh.edu

Teaching Assistant: John Sherer

Email: jcsherer@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment only (don't be shy!)

Telephone (713) 594-1250 (cell)

Office: 208 A.D. Bruce Religion Center

Telephone: 205 482-5389

Section 33175 meets 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. TTH @ H30

Section 19058 meets: 11:30 a.m. – 12:45p.m. TTH @ FH219

Section 37399 meets 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. TTH @ FH101

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.

Required Texts:

World Religions Today, Fourth Edition, Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0-19-975951-4

Attendance & Participation: Is required. You will be excused two class lectures during the semester, (for illness, emergencies, or any reason) after which you will lose points proportionately on this part of your grade. No additional excused absences will be granted. Signing the roll as it is passed around **during** class is your responsibility. You may not sign in at the end of class. If you cannot attend your class section on a given day, you may attend one of the other sections of the course and sign in there, noting your enrolled section on the roll.

(I am trying to avoid forcing you to buy clickers to register attendance at the beginning and end of class, so I use a sign-in sheet. It is much more work for me to collate the roll sheets. If I note students signing in and then leaving early, or otherwise trying to get credit for attendance when they are not in class, we will revert to the clicker system).

Tests: Will be 60% objective (fill-in-the-blank, T/F, multiple choice, etc.) and 40% essay questions taken from those posted on blackboard. They will cover both lectures and assigned reading. Will be 'open notes' - *(You may use handwritten notes from lectures and/or readings, no typed pages or photocopies).*

Religious Community Visits & Reflection Papers:

1. Visit 7 worshipping religious communities of various traditions (not your own).
2. For each visit submit a 3+ page reflection on the experience **which**
 - a. records your observations in detail,
 - b. notes explanations from participants about how they understand their religious rituals,
 - c. includes insights gleaned from lectures
 - d. includes background information from the text
 - e. has attached a relevant news article with a publication date within the semester (relevant to that particular religious tradition or faith community).

Possible Extra Credit: (points to be added to final average)

1. Complete one or two additional Religious Community Visit(s) and Reflection Paper(s) *(Only available if your core requirement papers are submitted on time).*
2. Additional opportunities for extra credit will be announced during the semester.

Required Reading: Readings should be completed before class on the Tuesday of the week assigned.

Course Grading:

Attendance & Participation	15 pts
Tests	25 pts (x2)
Religious Community Visits & Reflection Papers	5 points each (x7)
Possible Extra Credit on Final Average	10 points

Grading Scale:

A = 94+	A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86
B- = 80-83	C = 75-79
D = 70-74	F = below 70

RELS 1301 – Introduction to Religious Studies – Fall 2012

Week 1: August 28th & 30th

Course outline, defining religion, from theology to religious studies – Jean Bodin , Edward Herbert of Cherbury, Bernard Fontenelle, Giambattista Vico, David Hume

Week 2: September 4th & 6th

Sociology: August Comte, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber; Peter Berger, Rodney Stark

Week 3: September 11th & 13th

Psychology: William James, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung

Thursday – Reflection paper #1 due

Week 4: September 18th & 20th

Anthropology: Edward Burnett Tylor, James Frazer, Bronislaw Malinowski, A.R. Radcliffe-Brown
Ferdinand de Saussure, Claude Levi-Strauss

WWT: Chapter 1 * Introduction

Week 5: September 25th & 27th

Phenomenology: Immanuel Kant, Rudolph Otto, Mircea Eliade

WWT: Chapter 2 * Indigenous Religions

Thursday – Reflection papers #2 & #3 due

Week 6: October 2nd & 4th

Tuesday: Test 1 – Objective/Part 1 – Bring a blue scantron filled out with your name and PS #.

Thursday – Test 1 – Essays/Part 2

Week 7: October 9th & 11th

WWT: Chapter 3 * The Many Stories of Judaism: Sacred and Secular

Week 8: October 16th & 18th

WWT: Chapter 4 * Christian Diversity and the Road to Modernity

Thursday – Reflection papers #4 & #5 due

Week 9: October 23rd & 25th

WWT: Chapter 5 * Islam: The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience

Week 10: October 30th & November 1st

WWT: Chapter 6 * Hinduism: Myriad Paths to Salvation

Week 11: November 6th & 8th

WWT: Chapter 7 * Buddhism: Ways to Nirvana

Thursday – Reflection papers #6 & #7 due

Week 12: November 13th & 15th

WWT: Chapter 8 * East Asian Religions: Traditions of Human Cultivation and Natural Harmony

Week 13: November 20th

WWT: Chapter 9 * Globalization: From New to New Age Religions

Week 14: November 27th & 29th

Tuesday – Extra Credit Reflection Papers due

Complete lecture material, test reviews

Week 15: December 4th & 6th

Tuesday: Test 2 – Essays

Thursday – Test 2 – Objective – Bring a blue scantron filled out with your name and PS #.

RELS 1301 – Introduction to Religious Studies – Fall 2012

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY VISITS - MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE POSSIBILITIES BELOW.

Please call before you go for information about appropriate attire, updated times of worship that are open to visitors, etc.

JEWISH:

Orthodox: United Orthodox Synagogue of Houston

9001 Greenwillow, Houston, TX 77096 713 723 3850 <http://www.uosh.org>

(You must send them a copy of your TDL and UH ID before you go)

Conservative: Congregation Beth Yeshurun

4525 Beechnut, Houston, TX 77096 713 666 1881 www.bethyeshurun.org

call or check web-site for worship times

Reform: Congregation Beth Israel

5600 North Braeswood, Houston, TX

Sabbath Services in Chapel and Sanctuary: Fridays 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTIAN

Roman Catholic: CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

1111 ST. JOSEPH PKWY @ SAN JACINTO, Houston, TX 77002

Weekend Mass: English: Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm; Sunday 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm;

Spanish: Sunday 7:30 pm

Weekday Mass - 7:00 am, 12:10 pm Monday – Friday

Orthodox: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

3511 Yoakum Boulevard, Houston, TX 77006

Worship Schedule: Sunday Orthros (Morning Prayers) 8:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Pentecostal: Champions Community Church

13111 Bammel N. Houston Rd - Houston, TX – 77066

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m., Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Worship & Bible Study

Protestant: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

11612 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024

Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Blended Worship; 9:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship

Society of Friends: Live Oak Friends Meeting,

1318 West 26th Street in Houston, Texas

Sundays: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (for early risers; Skyspace often open); 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (childcare provided)

Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: Adult Discussion Group with Focus on Quakerism (tea and coffee served; attenders are welcome

to bring brown bag dinner or snacks) 8:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.: Meeting for Worship

MUSLIM

Ahmadiyya: Masjid Baitus Samee

1333 Spears Rd. Houston, TX 77067

+1 (281) 875-3400

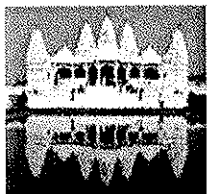
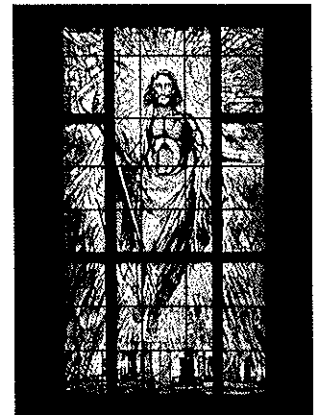
mnaem5518@aol.com

Sunni: Islamic Da'wah Center

201 Travis Street, Houston, TX 77002 islamicdawahcenter.org

Shia: Islamic Education Center, 2313 S. Voss Road, Houston, TX-77057;

Friday Prayer at Zohr time - call or check web-site for exact time; www.iec-houston.org 713 787 5000



HINDU: BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

1150 Brand Lane, Stafford, TX 77477, (281) 765-2277

houston.baps.org

(281) 765-2277

BUDDHIST: Dawn Mountain Tibetan Temple

2240 Bissonnet Street, Houston 713 630 0354

www.dawnmountain.org