



ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

DIVISION: Humanities, Fine Arts and Social Science (HFASS)

COURSE: PHL-1013 Comparative Religion

Effective Date: Fall 2025

Submitted Date: Jan-25

Credit Hours: 3

IAI Number (if applicable): H5904N

Complete all that apply or mark "None" where appropriate:

Prerequisite(s): None

Enrollment by assessment or other measure? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please describe:

Corequisite(s): None

Pre- or Corequisite(s): None

Consent of Instructor: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Delivery Method: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture	3 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> Seminar	0 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lab	0 Contact Hours (2-3 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical	0 Contact Hours (3 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	0 Contact Hours (5 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> Internship	0 Contact Hours (5 contact = 1 credit hour)

Offered: ☒ Fall ☒ Spring ☒ Summer

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course examines and compares the various major religions around the world, including ancient religions of the Near East, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, with an emphasis on finding the common themes to all religions. IAI equivalent: H5904N

ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS AND COURSE NOTES:

Students must complete between 10–12 total pages of writing to meet IAI criteria for Humanities courses.

COURSE TOPICS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS:

- I. The primary area of focus will be the history, ideas, and practices of the world's major religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism.
- II. The course may also include a focus on ancient traditions, native traditions, and other religious traditions, such as Sikhism, Jainism, Baha'i, Falun Gong, and other East Asian syncretic traditions.
- III. May include material addressing the nature of religion or issues of religious diversity.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Varies by instructor, but will generally involve a combination of lecture, discussion groups, general class discussion, assigned reading, independent research, and online videos.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

Varies by instructor, but may include any of the following:

- Class participation
- Written tests
- Quizzes
- Take-home writing assignments
- Written and/or verbal presentations of independent research
- Final research paper on a religious tradition
- Written and/or verbal presentations on interviews of practitioners
- Written and/or verbal presentations on attendance at practice/service

IAI requirements specify that a total of 10–12 pages of writing be completed for the course in some format or combination of formats.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:**Textbooks**

Examples include:

- Brodd, et al. Invitation to World Religions. Oxford, most recent edition.
- Van Voorst. Anthology of World Scriptures. Cengage, most recent edition.
- Another Comparative Religions textbook from a major academic publisher.
- An OER textbook from an academic publisher.

Part-Time and Dual Credit instructors should consult with the division dean before selecting a textbook.

Resources

Online videos

Supplemental and online readings provided through Brightspace.

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GOALS:

Institutional Learning Outcomes

- ☐ 1) Communication – to communicate effectively.
- ☒ 2) Inquiry – to apply critical, logical, creative, aesthetic, or quantitative analytical reasoning to formulate a judgement or conclusion.
- ☒ 3) Social Consciousness – to understand what it means to be a socially conscious person, locally and globally.
- ☐ 4) Responsibility – to recognize how personal choices affect self and society.

Course Outcomes and Competencies

The primary objective of the course is to gain a basic understanding of several of the world's major religious traditions, with an eye toward recognizing the similarities and differences among them. This will involve:

1. Understanding the fundamental concepts and ideas of these traditions.
2. Understanding each tradition's picture of humanity and humanity's role and ultimate destiny.
3. Recognizing the importance of historical events in the shaping of these traditions.
4. Recognizing interconnections and lines of influence between traditions.
5. Recognizing some of the most significant challenges each tradition faces in the contemporary world.