GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 120 – WORLD RELIGIONS

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

RELG 120 World Religions 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course is an introduction to the major religions of the world and the primary figures associated with those religious systems. Students will study the content of religious beliefs and examine the rituals and practices through which those beliefs are expressed.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Define major terms associated with religious belief and ritual.

b. Identify common features of the major religions.

c. Compare and contrast the tenets of belief, traditions and practices of the world’s systems of organized religion.

d. Assess the essential features of human nature in relation to religious belief.

e. Distinguish religions by comprehending significant myths and symbols.

f. Evaluate their own beliefs in light of new ideas about the divine and the place of the human being in the world.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard lectureclassroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None.

7. Course Content

a. The nature of religion and the problem of definition.

b. Primal religion.

(1) African religions.

(2) Native American practices.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 120 – WORLD RELIGIONS page 2

7. Course Content (continued)

c. Religions of India.

(1) Hinduism.

(2) Buddhism.

d. Religions of China and Japan.

(1) Confucianism.

(2) Taoism.

(3) Shinto.

e. Zoroastrianism.

f. Judaism.

g. Christianity and the West.

h. Islam and the Middle East.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture.

b. Class discussion.

c. Group work.

d. Field trips. For example, students visit local religious institutions, churches, temples.

e. Films.

f. Slides.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Short essay assignments.

b. Quizzes on small blocks of material.

c. Midterm and final exams which include essay and objective components.

d. Term paper(s).

e. Special projects and/or reports. Students attend and report on our department special events on campus.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Read the text and any supplemental materials to prepare for class.

b. Field experiences may be part of the course. For example, students interact with students at the Latter Day Saints church near campus.

c. Research and writing of papers is required.

11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

(1) *An Introduction to World Religions*, ed. Khaleel Mohammed, San Diego, CA, Polymath Publishing 2016

(2) Oxtoby, Willard G*., A Concise Introduction to World Religions*, New York, NY, Oxford University Press, 2015

(3) Smith, Huston. *The World’s Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions*. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 2009.

(4) Van Voorst, Robert, *World Religions*, Mason, OH, Cengage Learning 2016

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None.

Addendum: Student learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students will be able to do the following:

a. Distinguish between the tenets of belief and practices of the world’s major religious systems

b. Demonstrate this knowledge through written assignments

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 11, 2018