GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 170 – INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

RELG 170 Introduction to Christianity 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total 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 will provide an introduction to the Christian religion, giving attention to the history of its development. Its scriptures, rituals, and beliefs will be examined, as well as important persons, groups, and events which have developed among the Roman, Orthodox, and Protestant communities of Christianity.

4. Course Objectives

Students will:

1. Explain the major historical developments in the Christian experience.
2. Explain the varieties of Christian theology, both in the intellectual and every-day traditions of the religion.
3. Explain the important rituals of Christianity.
4. Explain the important ethical expectations of Christian life.
5. Compare and contrast the various interpretations of the figure of Jesus in Christian history.
6. Contrast the fundamental differences between the Roman, Orthodox, and Protestant forms of Christianity.
7. Summarize the major challenges of modernity to traditional Christianity.
8. Contrast the "liberal" and the "conservative" responses to modernity found in today's Christianity.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

1. The Origins of Christianity
   1. Ancient Judaism and the Roman Empire: the setting for Jesus
   2. The Jesus of the Canonical and Gnostic Gospels
   3. The Historical Jesus
   4. The Apostles
      * 1. The Apostles and Jewish Communities
        2. The Apostles and the Roman Empire
   5. The Apostle Paul
      * 1. Paul and Jewish Communities
        2. Paul and the Greco- Roman Worlds: From Asia Minor to Spain
   6. The Early Churches
      * 1. The Emergence of Catholic Orthodoxy
        2. Gnostic Christians
        3. Marcionites
        4. Montanists and Monarchists
        5. The Growing Divide between Christians and Jews
        6. The Early Church and the Roman Empire
   7. Emergence and Growth of the Imperial State Churches
      * 1. The Emperor Constantine
        2. The Council of Nicea and the Repression of “Heretics”
        3. Arians, Donatists, and Pelagians
        4. The Churches East and West
        5. Growth of the Papacy
        6. Augustine of Hippo
        7. The Byzantine Church
2. II. Medieval Christianity
3. The Early Middle Ages

The Growth of Monastic Institutions

Missions to England, Normandy, Germany, and Beyond

The Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire

The Lay Investiture Controversy

The Great Schism: Official Division of the Western and Eastern Churches

The Eastern Orthodox Churches

1. The Middle Ages
   1. High Authority of the Papacy: The Pope as Reformer
   2. The Crusades
   3. Heretics, Monks, and New Monastic Communities
   4. The Papacy: Issues and Problems
   5. Origins of the Protestant Reformation: Lollards, Hussites, and others
2. III. The Protestant and Catholic Reformations
3. Protestant Reformation

Germany: Martin Luther and Lutherans

Switzerland: Zwingli, Calvin, and the Reformed Churches

England: The Church of England

Anabaptists: “Radicals”

1. The Catholic Reformation
   1. The Council of Trent
   2. The Jesuits and Other New Monastic Communities
2. IV. Modernity and Christianity
3. Christianity in the United States
4. Modernists and Fundamentalists
5. Pentecostals
6. Non-Western Christianities

Middle Eastern Varieties

1. Christianity and Social Justice
   1. Black Liberation Theology
   2. The Open and Affirming (ONA) Coalition
   3. Peace Churches
2. Christian Nationalism

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture.

b. Group discussion.

c. Individual instruction.

d. Individualized feedback on student work

e.Student presentations

f. Guest speakers

g. Show instructional videos

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Class Participation

b. Class Work

c. Exams/Tests

d. Field Trips to various local churches

e. Group Projectson how Christianity is practiced in diverse cultures around the world

f. Homework

g. Oral Presentation on visits to local churches

h. Papers comparing various beliefs and practices across various denominations of Christianity

i. Quizzes

j. Research Projects on the historical development of Christianity

k. The final grade may be based on total points or average grade over required activities specified by the faculty member. Assignments may include class notes, class presentations, research paper, group projects, objective and essay exams, quizzes and homework.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Reading assignments, such as essays, editorials, articles in various current publications on topics such as finding current examples of apocalyptic literature, and how is Christianity understood in Islam

b. Field trips to Christian churches of various denominations

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative Texts

1) Molloy, Michael. *The Christian Experience: An Introduction to Christianity*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2017

2) Dowley, Tim. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*, 2nd ed. Fortress , 2013 Recommended

3) Weaver, Mary Jo. *Introduction to Christianity,* 4th ed. Belmont: Thomson/ Wadsworth , 2009 Recommended

4) Kirk-Duggan, Cheryl A., and Karen Jo Torjesen. *Women and Christianity*. Praeger/ABC-CLIO, 2010.

b. Supplemental Texts:

None

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

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

a. Identify the major events in the life of Jesus, according to available historical resources.

b. Compare and contrast the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church

c. Understand at least two Protestant denomination and their particular approach to Christian theology and practice.

d. Evaluate at least two contemporary trends in Christianity

e. Analyze their own lived experiences and beliefs as applications or reactions to doctrines, ethics, norms or practices of Christianity.