

**SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

**SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO**



**SAULT  
COLLEGE**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>COURSE TITLE:</b>	Religions of the World		
<b>CODE NO. :</b>	PCS303	<b>SEMESTER:</b>	F2011
<b>PROGRAM:</b>	Peace and Conflict Studies		
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Vincent A. D'Agostino		
<b>DATE:</b>	Sept. 2011	<b>PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:</b>	N/A
<b>APPROVED:</b>	"Angelique Lemay"		Aug, 2011
	_____		_____
	<b>DEAN</b>		<b>DATE</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS:</b>	3 Credits		
<b>PREREQUISITE(S):</b>	None		
<b>HOURS/WEEK:</b>	3 Hours		

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*For additional information, please contact Angelique Lemay, Dean, Community Services and Interdisciplinary Studies*  
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**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will provide a comprehensive survey of a wide range of religious traditions, both Eastern and Western, including Tribal Religions, Religions of Ancient Civilizations, Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist, Christian, Islamic, Atheist, Marxist and Existentialist. Students will examine the rich historical, cultural, and theological background of each tradition in terms of its original founders, views on nature, self, society and ultimate reality. Each religious tradition will be approached in an analytical and philosophical manner which will allow students to identify with and to maintain a distance from each of the traditions covered. The course will emphasize clarity, critical thinking and argumentation in an effort to gain an appreciation for the textual roots, fundamental concerns, similarities and differences of each religious tradition.

Here are a few quotations that set the tone for the Religions of the World ...

*“Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.”*

The Buddha, Udana-Varga 5.18

*“Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.”*

Jesus, Matthew, 7:12

*“Do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you.”*

Confucius, Analects, 15:23

*“This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you.”*

Mahabharata, 5:1517

*“Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others that which you wish for yourself.”*

The Prophet Mohammed, Hadith

*“What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor that is the whole Torah.”*

Rabbi Hillel , b.Shabbat 31a

*“Regard your neighbour’s gain as your gain, and your neighbour’s loss as your own loss.”*

Lao Tzu, Tai Shang Kan Yin P’ien, 213-218

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

**Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:**

**1. Identify and describe some of the most influential religious figures, scriptures and practices.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Define basic terminology from each religious system of thought.
- Summarize essential elements from each tradition.
- Discuss the connection between inherent values and the fundamental concepts within each worldview.
- Outline the founders and movements from each religion.

**2. Explain religion's importance on the development of civilization.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Describe how religious teachings can shape a culture.
- Discuss how religious worldviews can impact both the social and political spheres of society.
- Analyze the impact religion has on artistic expression.
- Discuss how religion influences genderroles.

**3. Analyze and evaluate various religious beliefs and practices.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Examine various views on nature, self and society.
- Compare and contrast conceptions of ultimate reality.
- Consider some of the similarities and differences between worldviews
- Argue, in oral and written form, the strengths and weaknesses of each tradition.

**4. Consider the present and future role that religion has in the world.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Examine the influence that religionhas on individual and social behaviour.
- Assess the impact religion has on peace and wellbeing.
- Critique the use of religious ideologies to justify conflicts and violence.
- Evaluate atheistic arguments against the importance of religion and existence of God.

**III. TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:**

*Note: These topics sometimes overlap several areas of skill development and are not necessarily intended to be explored in isolated learning units or in the order below.*

1. Tribal Religions
2. Indigenous Religions
3. Hinduism
4. Judaism
5. Buddhism
6. Confucianism
7. Taoism
8. Christianity
9. Islam
10. Atheism

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

Carmody, D. L. and Brink, T. L. *Ways to the Center: An Introduction to World Religions*. Toronto, ON: Thompson/Wadsworth Publishing.

**VI. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM**

Activities	20%
Tests	50%
Essay	30%
Total	100%

**The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	
A	80 – 89%	4.00
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00

D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

**Note:** For such reasons as program certification or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade.

It is also important to note, that the minimum overall GPA required in order to graduate from a Sault College program remains 2.0.