

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO



**SAULT
COLLEGE**

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE:	Religions of the World		
CODE NO. :	PCS303	SEMESTER:	FALL
PROGRAM:	Peace and Conflict Studies		
AUTHOR:	Vincent A. D'Agostino		
DATE:	June 2014	PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:	Sept. 2013
APPROVED:	<i>“Angelique Lemay”</i>		<i>July, 2014</i>
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		DEAN	DATE
TOTAL CREDITS:	3 Credits		
PREREQUISITE(S):	None		
HOURS/WEEK:	3 Hours		

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School of 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)

“Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.”
(Jesus)

“Do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you.”
(Confucius)

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

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

“What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor that is the whole Torah.” (Rabbi Hillel)

“Regard your neighbour’s gain as your gain, and your neighbour’s loss as your own loss.” (Lao Tzu)

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 gender roles.

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 religion has 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.

- Hinduism
- Jainism
- Buddhism
- Confucianism
- Taoism
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Aboriginal Spirituality
- Atheism

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

There is no specific textbook for this course. The instructor will provide supplemental handouts, essays, online material, etc. throughout the semester. There will also be additional reading material/textbooks available at the Sault College Library reserve desk.

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM

Activities	20%
Tests/Exams	50%
Major Assignment(s)	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%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	3.00
B	70 - 79%	2.00
C	60 - 69%	1.00
D	50 – 59%	0.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	
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 filed placement, certification, and/or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade. Students require 2.0 GPA (Grade Point Average) in order to graduate from Sault College.

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session.

VII. COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDUM:

1. Course Outline Amendments:

The professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

2. Retention of Course Outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

3. Prior Learning Assessment:
Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit from the program coordinator (or the course coordinator regarding a general education transfer request) or academic assistant. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question. Please refer to the Student Academic Calendar of Events for the deadline date by which application must be made for advance standing.

Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

4. Accessibility Services:
If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Accessibility Services office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.
5. Communication:
The College considers *Desire2Learn (D2L)* as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of this Learning Management System (LMS) communication tool.
6. Academic Dishonesty:
Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Code of Conduct*. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

7. Tuition Default:

Students who have defaulted on the payment of tuition (tuition has not been paid in full, payments were not deferred or payment plan not honoured) as of the first week of November (fall semester courses), first week of March (winter semester courses) or first week of June (summer semester courses) will be removed from placement and clinical activities due to liability issues. This may result in loss of mandatory hours or incomplete course work. Sault College will not be responsible for incomplete hours or outcomes that are not achieved or any other academic requirement not met as of the result of tuition default. Students are encouraged to communicate with Financial Services with regard to the status of their tuition prior to this deadline to ensure that their financial status does not interfere with academic progress.
8. Student Portal:

The Sault College portal allows you to view all your student information in one place. **mysaultcollege** gives you personalized access to online resources seven days a week from your home or school computer. Single log-in access allows you to see your personal and financial information, timetable, grades, records of achievement, unofficial transcript, and outstanding obligations, in addition to announcements, news, academic calendar of events, class cancellations, your learning management system (LMS), and much more. Go to <https://my.saultcollege.ca>.
9. Recording Devices in the Classroom:

Students who wish to use electronic devices in the classroom will seek permission of the faculty member before proceeding to record instruction. With the exception of issues related to accommodations of disability, the decision to approve or refuse the request is the responsibility of the faculty member. Recorded classroom instruction will be used only for personal use and will not be used for any other purpose. Recorded classroom instruction will be destroyed at the end of the course. To ensure this, the student is required to return all copies of recorded material to the faculty member by the last day of class in the semester. Where the use of an electronic device has been approved, the student agrees that materials recorded are for his/her use only, are not for distribution, and are the sole property of the College.