

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 2015
PROGRAM:	Peace and Conflict Studies (1103)		
AUTHOR:	Vincent A. D'Agostino		
DATE:	June 2015	PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:	June 2014
APPROVED:	'Angelique Lemay'		June/15
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	DEAN		DATE
TOTAL CREDITS:	3 Credits		
PREREQUISITE(S):	None		
HOURS/WEEK:	3 Hours		

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Enrichment
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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 and nonviolent practices 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 the social and political spheres of society, as well as the environment.
- 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 personal, mental, emotional, physical and wellbeing.
- Critique the use of religious ideologies to justify conflicts, violence, and the marginalization of various peoples.
- 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

Additional topics for individual exploration may include...

- Bahai Faith, Falun Dafa, Jehovah Witness, Mennonite Christianity, Mormonism, Paganism, Quakerism, Rastafarianism, Scientology, Sikhism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism.

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

Smith, H. *The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions* (50th anniversary ed.). San Francisco: HarperOne. (ISBN: 978-0061660184)

The professor will provide supplemental handouts, essays, online material, etc. throughout the semester. There will also be additional online reading material/videos available via the Sault College Library website.

Additional textbooks may be required, please see professor for more details.

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

Activities	20%
Tests/Exams	50%
Major Assignment(s)	30%

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.

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.	

If a faculty member determines that a student is at risk of not being successful in their academic pursuits and has exhausted all strategies available to faculty, student contact information may be confidentially provided to Student Services in an effort to offer even more assistance with options for success. Any student wishing to restrict the sharing of such information should make their wishes known to the coordinator or faculty member.

SPECIAL NOTES:

VI.

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:

The provisions contained in the addendum located in D2L and on the portal form part of this course outline.