Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: RELI 101

Course Title: Religion and Human Experience

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Provides an objective setting to encourage students to examine religion and various religious traditions in the world, with opportunities to understand religion in the context of their own experiences. Offered Spring. G.E.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None.

Text(s): Most current editions of the following:


Deming. Rethinking Religion. Oxford

Course Objectives:

- To understand the various ways of defining religion and the implications of each;
- To develop insight into the development of religion in personality and in social groups and societies;
- To be acquainted with characteristics of several of the major religions of the world by studying some of their beliefs and practices;
- To think critically about the connection between religion and culture and between religion and self-understanding.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Analyze possible definitions of “Religion”
- Provide a personal definition of religion that is defensible.
- Analyze implications of definition of religion on existing social practices.
- Explore aspects of religion and the socio-cultural context in which they exist.
- Express in writing the various aspects of major world religions and the connection between religion, culture and self-understanding.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Introduction to Religion.
  - Problems of Defining Religion/Understanding the Self.
  - Sin and Guilt/Death and the Self.
• Representation in Religions and Faith Experience.
  o Magic and Religion/Myth/ritual/symbol/Mysticism
• Major Themes in Some Religions of the World.
  o Hinduism/Buddhism/Judaism/Christianity.
  o American Indian Spirituality/New Age Religion.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Mark L. Price

Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________

Date: March 23, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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