Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: RELI 201

Course Title: Religious Classic Texts

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

Catalog Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the classic primary sources of world religions. From ancient Mesopotamia to modern classics of religious experience, the student will read, analyze and compare the written accounts of human contemplation of the divine across time and culture. Offered Fall.

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

Text(s): Some recommended texts (many others are possible):
  - Enuma Elish
  - Egyptian Book of the Dead
  - The Bible
  - The Koran
  - The Rig Veda and the Upanishads
  - The Bhagavad-Gita
  - I Ching
  - Zarathustra
  - Tao Te Ching
  - Confucius
  - Chuang Tzu
  - Dhammapada
  - The Church Fathers
  - Thomas Aquinas
  - Martin Luther
  - Tolstoy
  - Dostoyevsky
  - Thomas Merton
  - Gandhi

Course Objectives:
- To understand world religions by closely reading the classic texts of the world.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:
- Identify and compare the major systems of ideas of world religions by means of their written texts.
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the conceptual and factual content of the texts.
- Analyze the structures and beliefs of world religions.
- Distinguish the differences in religions through comparison of the texts.
- Demonstrate the influence of such sources on contemporary events and beliefs.
Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):
The topical outline of this course should be based upon the works chosen for study.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20

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.

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Name
Signature
Date: January 13, 2005

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.

Office of Academic Affairs
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