Fast Track
General Education Foundations Course Articulation
From a UH Campus to UH Mānoa: PROPOSAL FORM, RELIGION

Course Information

Course: REL 150
Submitting Campus: Kapi'olani Community College

Title & Catalog Description: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions

REL 150 is a survey of the major religious traditions of the world. The course is designed to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of these traditions, and to enable students to think sensitively and critically about the religious world.

UHM Equivalent Course (check one): [Only equivalent courses may be submitted for Fast Track review.]

G REL 150 Introduction to the World’s Major Religions, Global & Multicultural Perspectives, Group C

Global & Multicultural Perspectives (FG) Hallmarks & Application Questions

Answer the following questions in detail and submit the answers along with this form and at least one course syllabus.

1. From multiple perspectives, the course analyzes the development of human societies and their cultural traditions through time and throughout the world, including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. Which human societies and cultural traditions are analyzed? What perspectives are employed? What time periods are covered?

2. The course offers a broad, integrated analysis of cultural, economic, political, scientific, and/or social development that recognizes the diversity of human societies and their cultural traditions. Which of these aspects of development are analyzed? How does the course recognize diversity? In what ways are analyses integrated?

3. While recognizing diversity, the course also examines processes of cross-cultural interaction and exchange that have linked the world’s peoples through time. What processes of cross-cultural interaction are examined?

4. The course includes at least one component on Hawaiian, Pacific, and Asian societies and their cultural traditions. What components of Hawaiian, Pacific, and Asian societies and their cultural traditions are included in the course?

5. The course engages students in the study and analysis of writings, narratives, texts, artifacts, and/or practices that represent the perspectives of different societies and cultural traditions. List the items that students will analyze and briefly explain what perspectives they represent.

6. In combination, a student’s two FG courses will provide a large-scale analysis of human development and change over time from prehistory to the present. Students must take two courses from two different groups. Group A: content primarily before 1500 CE. Group B: content primarily after 1500 CE. Group C: pre-history to present. Explain how your course fits into the Group to which the equivalent UHM course is assigned.

Required Signatures

Requested by: Sheldon Hershinow
Chair/Director

Humanities
Department/Unit

Signature
Date

Approved by
Chief Academic Officer

Campus

Signature
Date

Submit to vpaa-gened@hawaii.edu by 4:00 p.m., February 5, 2003.
7. From multiple perspectives, the course analyzes the development of human societies and their cultural traditions through
time and throughout the world, including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. Which human societies and
cultural traditions are analyzed? What perspectives are employed? What time periods are covered?

REL 150 is a survey of the world's major religions. It explores those religions that originated in South Asia (Hinduism and
Buddhism), East Asia (Taoism and Confucianism), and the Middle East (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). The course also
explores the transformations of these traditions as they spread throughout the world, including Europe, Africa, the Americas
and Oceania. REL 150 also includes a section on Oral Traditions, which contains units on the indigenous religions of
Africa, the Pacific Islands, and Hawai'i.

The course is primarily a historical survey of the religions listed above. The course traces the development of these
traditions from their beginnings through the modern period and examines various issues in the contemporary religious
world. The time periods will vary greatly depending on the tradition under investigation. In addition to historical methods,
instructors may also employ sociological, anthropological, psychological, philosophical, and other approaches.

8. The course offers a broad, integrated analysis of cultural, economic, political, scientific, and/or social development that
recognizes the diversity of human societies and their cultural traditions. Which of these aspects of development are
analyzed? How does the course recognize diversity? In what ways are analyses integrated?

The study of religion necessitates an understanding of the surrounding political, economic, cultural and social contexts in
which the religions develop and thrive. REL 150 takes all of these elements into consideration, examining the
interconnectedness of religion with other aspects of social life. Art, architecture, literature, ethics, economics, and politics
are all examined as part and parcel of the religious world. These various aspects of social life are analyzed as integrated
worldviews.

REL 150 recognizes diversity through its extensive coverage of different religious traditions, from Asia and the West, from
the Middle East and Africa, from Oceania and the Hawaiian Islands. Students are introduced to a multitude of worldviews
and come to appreciate the diversity of meanings constructed by various groups.

9. While recognizing diversity, the course also examines processes of cross-cultural interaction and exchange that have linked
the world's peoples through time. What processes of cross-cultural interaction are examined?

REL 150 examines the interaction of various religious traditions within multicultural settings, particularly the United States.
It also examines the historical spread of several traditions: the spread of Buddhism throughout Asia; the spread of
Christianity into Europe, the Americas, and the Pacific; and the spread of Islam into Africa and South East Asia. Such
examinations allow students to see the manners in which religions transform cultures and cultures transform religions. By
examining religiously pluralistic societies, such as those found in East Asia or the Middle East, students come to understand
the extent to which religions influence one another and the boundaries of identity which keep them separate.

10. The course includes at least one component on Hawaiian, Pacific, and Asian societies and their cultural traditions. What
components of Hawaiian, Pacific, and Asian societies and their cultural traditions are included in the course?

Approximately 35% of the course is dedicated to the study of Asian religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and
Confucianism. Approximately 15% of the course is dedicated to Oral Traditions with units on the indigenous religions of the
Pacific Islands and Hawai'i.

11. The course engages students in the study and analysis of writings, narratives, texts, artifacts, and/or practices that
REL 150 includes extensive analysis of religious writings, narratives, texts, artifacts and practices that represent the perspectives of each religion under examination. Introductory textbooks will typically include selections from sacred texts and mythologies that are integral to such an introductory course. Many instructors also assign other reading materials, introducing students to religious philosophy, poetry, mythology, and law. Introductory textbooks also include photographs of religious art, architecture, and artifacts from around the world. Many instructors bring religious artifacts into the classroom, such as ritual implements, sacramental garments, and other paraphernalia, enabling students to handle such objects. Likewise, many instructors require students to participate in field research projects, taking them out of the classroom and into the sacred spaces of different religious communities. Honolulu, with its richly diverse, multicultural community, is an ideal learning lab for a course like this. Students are able not only to witness other traditions in practice, but to participate in ritual activities which might otherwise be far removed from their field of experience. Instructors may also show videos of rituals and play music from around the world, bringing different modes of cultural expression into the classroom.

12. In combination, a student’s two FG courses will provide a large-scale analysis of human development and change over time from prehistory to the present. Students must take two courses from two different groups. Group A: content primarily before 1500 CE. Group B: content primarily after 1500 CE. Group C: pre-history to present. Explain how your course fits into the Group to which the equivalent UHM course is assigned.

REL 150 covers prehistory to the present. Each religion is examined from its genesis until today.
REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions

1. COURSE INFORMATION: (01/06/03)

REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions (3) AA/AH4, AS/AH
3 hours lecture per week
Prerequisites: none
Recommended preparation: Qualification for ENG 100, ENG 160, or ESL 100.

Course description to be included in the KCC General Catalog:

REL 150 is a survey of the major religious traditions of the world. The course is designed to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of these traditions, and to enable students to think sensitively and critically about the religious world.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of REL 150, the student should be able to:

... Identify the essential characteristics that distinguish the major religious traditions.

... Describe the basic components of each major religious tradition, such as its myths, rituals, doctrines, ethics, and artistic expressions.

... Describe religious conflicts and trends in the modern world.

... Explain the relationship between one’s own religious background and that of the surrounding community.

... Express ideas and opinions clearly in writing.

3. GENERAL EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES:

REL 150 is an elective course in the Liberal Arts curriculum. The general purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the major religious traditions of the world. REL 150 is recommended preparation for REL 200, REL 201, REL 202, and REL 209 at Kapi‘olani Community College.

There are no prerequisites or corequisites for REL 150. Qualification for ENG 100, ENG 160, or ESL 100 is recommended as preparation for REL 150 because of the level of reading, writing, and critical thinking required in this course.

This course supports the following college competency areas:

Values for living
Quality of life as affected by technology and science
Awareness of the dynamics in contemporary issues
Responsiveness to the arts and humanities
Career choices and life-long learning

This course also satisfies the following Associate in Arts degree competencies:
Critical Thinking:
Critical thinking, an analytical and creative process, is essential to every content area and discipline. It is an integral part of information retrieval and technology, oral communication, quantitative reasoning, and written communication. Upon completion of an A.A. degree, the student should be able to:
• Identify and state problems, issues, arguments, and questions contained in a body of information.
• Identify and analyze assumptions and underlying points of view relating to an issue or problem.
• Formulate research questions that require descriptive and explanatory analyses.
• Recognize and understand multiple modes of inquiry, including investigative methods based on observation and analysis.
• Evaluate a problem, distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant facts, opinions, assumptions, issues, values, and biases through the use of appropriate evidence.
• Apply problem-solving techniques and skills, including the rules of logic and logical sequence.
• Synthesize information from various sources, drawing appropriate conclusions.
• Communicate clearly and concisely the methods and results of logical reasoning.
• Reflect upon and evaluate their thought processes, value systems, and worldviews in comparison to those of others.

Information Retrieval and Technology:
Information retrieval and technology are integral parts of every content area and discipline. Upon completion of an A.A. degree, the student should be able to:
• Use print and electronic information technology ethically and responsibly.
• Recognize, identify, and define an information need.
• Access and retrieve information through print and electronic media, evaluating the accuracy and authenticity of that information.
• Recognize changing technologies and make informed choices about their appropriateness and use.

Oral Communication:
Oral communication is an integral part of every content area and discipline. Upon completion of an A.A. degree, the student should be able to:
• Identify and analyze the audience and purpose of any intended communication.
• Gather, evaluate, select, and organize information for the communication.
• Use language, techniques, and strategies appropriate to the audience and occasion.
• Speak clearly and confidently, using the voice, volume, tone, and articulation appropriate to the audience and occasion.
• Summarize, analyze, and evaluate oral communications and ask coherent questions as needed.
• Use competent oral expression to initiate and sustain discussions.

Written Communication:
Written communication is an integral part of every content area and discipline. Upon completion of an A.A. degree, the student should be able to:
• Use writing to discover and articulate ideas.
• Identify and analyze the audience and purpose for any intended communication.
• Choose language, style, and organization appropriate to particular purposes and audiences.
• Gather information and document sources appropriately.
• Express a main idea as a thesis, hypothesis, or other appropriate statement.
• Develop a main idea clearly and concisely with appropriate content.
• Demonstrate mastery of the conventions of writing, including grammar, spelling, and mechanics.
• Demonstrate proficiency in revision and editing.
• Develop a personal voice in written communication.
Understanding Self and Community:
Kapi`olani Community College emphasizes an understanding of one's self and one's relationship to the community, the region, and the world. Upon completion of an A.A. degree, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between the environment and their own fundamental physiological and psychological processes.
- Examine critically and appreciate the values and beliefs of their own culture and those of other cultures separated in time or space from their own.
- Communicate effectively and acknowledge opposing viewpoints.
- Demonstrate an understanding of ethical, civic, and social issues relevant to Hawai`i's and the world's past, present, and future.

This course also satisfies the following Associate in Science degree competencies:

AS
- Understand attitudes and values of various cultures and examine their potential for improving the quality of life and meaningfulness in work.
- Understand contemporary issues and problems and respond to the impact of current conditions.
- Demonstrate proficiency in conceptual, analytical, and critical modes of thinking.
- Develop insights into human experience and apply them to personal, occupational, and social relationships.
- Recognize relevance of career choices to life-long learning.

4. COURSE CONTENT:

I. Introduction (approx. 10% of total course)
   A. Definitions
   B. Theories
   C. Methods

II. Oral Traditions (approx. 15% of total course)
   A. Africa
   B. Pacific Islands
   C. Hawai`i

III. Indian Traditions (approx. 25% of total course)
   A. Hinduism
   B. Buddhism

IV. East Asian Traditions (approx. 10% of total course)
   A. Taoism
   B. Confucianism
   C. Shinto

V. Abrahamic Traditions (approx. 35% of total course)
   A. Judaism
   B. Christianity
   C. Islam

VI. Conclusion (approx. 5% of total course)

5. POSSIBLE TEXTS:


Faculty may utilize any standard, introductory textbook they deem suitable.
Reference materials necessary to support student research and the teaching of this course may be found in Kapi‘olani Community College’s Lama Library and can be supplemented by materials available at UH Manoa’s Hamilton Library.

A large number of videos, color slides, compact disc recordings, websites, and local speakers are available for instructors to utilize as they deem appropriate. In addition to the slides and videos available at KCC, UH Manoa’s Wong Audiovisual Center contains an enormous collection of audio and video recordings appropriate or this course.

Beyond the required test(s), students will not be expected to purchase any other supplies or equipment.

6. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Methods of instruction may include lecture/discussion, small-group discussions, oral debates, research projects, field trips, films and videos, PowerPoint presentations and internet tools, as well as formal and informal writing assignments.

7. METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on their demonstrated mastery of the material and their ability to express their understanding of key concepts and issues. Possible requirements:

Exam #1  25%
Exam #2  25%
Final Exam  25%
Papers  25%

Suggested Grading Scale:

90 - 100% = A
80 - 89.9% = B
70 - 79.9% = C
60 - 69.9% = D
less than 60% = F

REL 150 is not repeatable for credit.

8. JUSTIFICATION:

This curriculum revision updates the course as part of a 5-year cyclical review.

9. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

   A. This course will not require a change in staff, equipment, facilities, or other resources.

   B. This proposal will not have any impact on other departments nor will it affect present classroom and office resources.

   C. This course will have a maximum enrollment of 35 students per section, with an estimated 10 sections being offered each semester.
10. ARTICULATION:

A. REL 150 will not differ in any significant way from similar courses taught at other UH campuses. REL 150 is currently offered at:

University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions (3) AH12

Hawai‘i Community College, REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions (3)

Honolulu Community College, REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions (3)

Kaua‘i Community College, REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions (3)

Leeward Community College, REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions (3) AH3

Maui Community College, REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions (3)

Windward Community College, REL 150: Introduction to the World’s Major Religions (3) AH4

B. REL 150 has previously been articulated with the UH Manoa General Education Core Requirements.

C. REL 150 is appropriate for articulation with the other community colleges in the UH system.