

**College of Micronesia – FSM
P.O. Box 159
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941**

Course Outline Cover Page

Introduction to Religion
Course Title
Number

EN209
Department &

Course Description:

Introduction to Religion is designed to expose students to a wide variety of religious beliefs and practices. Students will examine major religions of the world as well as the questions and issues that religion tries to address.

Course Prepared by: Division of Languages and Literature

State: Pohnpei

	Hours per Week		No. of Weeks		Total Hours		Semester Credits	
Lecture	3	x	16	x	48	=	3	
Laboratory		x		x		=		
Workshop		x		x		=		
Total Semester Credits								3

Purpose of Course:

Degree Requirement _____
 Degree Elective X
 Certificate _____
 Remedial _____
 Other (workshop) _____

Prerequisite Course(s):

EN110 Advanced Reading

Signature, Chairperson, Curriculum Committee

Date Approved by Committee

Signature, President, COM-FSM

Date Approved by President

Course Description

Introduction to Religion is designed to expose students to a wide variety of religious beliefs and practices. Students will examine major religions of the world as well as the questions and issues that religion tries to address.

I. Course Objectives

General Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the general beliefs and practices of various world religions.
2. Explain various answers that can be given to the questions and issues that religion tries to address.
3. State and defend his/her own personal religious beliefs.

Specific Objectives

The student will be able to:

- 1.1 Place major religions of the world on a time-line as to when they began.
- 1.2 Place major religions on a world map as to where they geographically began and are concentrated currently.
- 1.3 List the major tenets of each major religion studied.
- 1.4 Describe the primary religious practices of each major religion studied.

- 2.1 Identify the major questions and issues that religion tries to address.
- 2.2 Compare and contrast how various religious groups would answer the questions and deal with the issues identified in 2.1.
- 2.3 Distinguish between religious, philosophical, and cultural points of the arguments.

- 3.1 Apply accurate terminology to construct a cogent and comprehensive statement of personal faith/belief.
- 3.2 Respond to discrepancies between his/her personal ideas and those held by other individuals and religious groups by supporting his/her views.

II. Course Contents

The course provides an overview of current major religions of world, with special emphasis on connections to the FSM, and the dynamics between religion and culture. Such religions may include but are not limited to:

1. Baha'i

2. Buddhism
3. Christianity
4. Confucianism
5. Hinduism
6. Islam
7. Judaism
8. Primal Religions (Animism, Neopaganism/Wicca, etc.)
9. Shinto
10. Skepticism (Atheism/Agnosticism)
11. Taoism

Additionally, the course examines major questions and issues in the field of religion, such as (but not limited to):

- Who or what is god?
- What is the nature of human beings?
- What is the relationship between god and humans?
- Why are we here?
- What happens to us when we die?
- The power of religious texts
- Religious conflict & tolerance
- The role of religion in war
- How do religious beliefs control or direct how people behave on a daily basis, including the choices they make? (ethics, morals, etc.)
- What is the relationship between religion and magic?

III. Textbook

Smith, Huston. The World's Religions. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1991.

Smith, Huston. The Illustrated World's Religions. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1994.

Many supplemental supporting materials are available through the Learning Resources Center and on-line.

IV. Required Course Materials

None

V. Reference Materials

Many supplemental supporting materials are available through the Learning Resources Center and on-line.

VI. Instructional Costs

None.

VII. Method of Instruction

The instructor may use but is not limited to: lectures, guest lectures, group discussion, individual and/or group presentations, movies and other media presentations, field trips, demonstrations, projects, quizzes, tests, and exercises in order to achieve the stated objectives of the course.

VIII. Evaluation

The instructor will create measurement instruments that demonstrate competency in the stated objectives. These may include multiple choice, short answer, and essay quizzes or tests in addition to project-based assignments. Each student will produce at least one substantial research paper.

IX. Attendance Policy

The COM-FSM attendance policy applies to this course.

X. Academic Honesty Policy

The COM-FSM academic honesty policy applies to this course.