

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith  
5210 Grand Avenue  
P. O. Box 3649  
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649  
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**General Syllabus**

**RELI 2303 World Religions**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

**Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition**

**Effective Catalog: 2019-2020**

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

A survey of the world's major religious traditions.

**B. Additional Information - none**

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the unique contribution which Religion has made to civilization.
2. Identify the world's major religious traditions and their relationships to one another.
3. Describe the beliefs and practices which characterize the world's major religious traditions.
4. Compare and contrast the beliefs and practices of the world's major religious traditions.

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will learn to analyze religious claims and practices.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will analyze moral dilemmas and problems that involve religious differences or conflicts.

**Communication Skills**

Students will further develop some of the conceptual and linguistic skills necessary to relate to individuals from differing religious backgrounds.

**Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will appreciate the role which religion has had in shaping the culture in which they live and in fashioning other cultures.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Introduction to the Study of World Religions
- B. Religions of the Past – Prehistoric Religion, Egyptian Religion, Greek Religion, etc.
- C. Folk Religions of the Present – African and Native American Religions
- D. Religions of India – Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism
- E. Religions of the Far East – Taoism/ Confucianism, Shintoism
- F. Religions of the Middle East – Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Baha'i
- G. Modern Religious Movements – Christian Science, Falun Gong, Scientology, etc.