

**Eastern WV Community & Technical College
Master Course Record**

Course Prefix and Number: REL 140
Course Title: Introduction to Eastern Religions
Recommended Transcript Title (if over 40 characters)
Date Approved/Revised
Credit Hours: 3 Contact hours per week (Based on 15 week term): 3 Lecture: 3 Lab:
Prerequisite: None Corequisite: None Pre/Corequisite: None
Grading Mode: Letter
Catalog Description: This course serves as a general introduction to Eastern religions, in particular Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shintoism.
Course Outcomes: (The numbering of learning outcomes does not in any way reflect hierarchal importance): After completing REL 140: Introduction to Eastern Religions, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the identifying features within the major religious traditions of India, China, and Japan including sacred texts, founders, sects, and core beliefs. 2. Evaluate the similarities and differences between the major Eastern religious traditions. 3. Locate the regions where these religious traditions originated and are currently practiced. 4. Analyze each religion (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shintoism) within an academic rather than devotional context. 5. Justify the educational value of studying Eastern religions. 6. Distinguish between monotheistic and polytheistic religions as well as identifying avatar religions. 7. Conduct meaningful discussion with fellow students regarding topics within these religious traditions. 8. Explain the ultimate goal of each Eastern religion. 9. Identify Eastern religious practices present within American society. 10. Reference various modern Eastern religious leaders.
Implementation Cycle: Spring 2016
Role in College Curriculum: (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Education Core (Specify category) Humanities

<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Core (Specify Program)
<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted Elective (Specify Program)
<input type="checkbox"/> General Elective
<input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify)
Course Fee: None
Instructor's Qualifications: Master's degree plus 18 graduate level Religion credits.
Expanded Course Description (provides details regarding major course concepts, target audience, delivery format, etc)

Prepared by: Leslie Laschinger, adjunct instructor 12/9/15

Approved Per LOT Minutes

Dean, Academic and Student Services

Date

Introduction to Eastern Religions Syllabus

Course Identification and Faculty Contact Information:

- Course Number and Title: REL 140: Introduction to Eastern Religions
- Semester and Year: Fall 2015
- Instructor's name: Leslie Laschinger
- Instructor's Contact Information: leslielaschinger@gmail.com (all emails will be returned within 24 hours, except on Sundays)
- Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2pm and 3pm, email me during these times for a more immediate response
- Day and Time of Class Meeting: Online
- Course Index Number: 3144
- Course Materials:
 - Textbook: Oxtoby, Willard G. *World Religions: Eastern Traditions* (4th Edition) Toronto: Oxford University Press Canada, 2014.
 - Supplemental Course Materials: Hoff, Benjamin. *The Tao of Pooh* New York: Penguin Books, 1982.

Course Content and Requirements:

I. Purpose

Course Description: This course serves as a general introduction to Eastern religions, in particular Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shintoism. After completing REL 140: Introduction to Eastern Religions, students should be able to:

1. Describe the identifying features within the major religious traditions of India, China, and Japan including sacred texts, founders, sects, and core beliefs.
2. Evaluate the similarities and differences between the major Eastern religious traditions.
3. Locate the regions where these religious traditions originated and are currently practiced.
4. Analyze each religion (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shintoism) within an academic rather than devotional context.
5. Justify the educational value of studying Eastern religions.
6. Distinguish between monotheistic and polytheistic religions as well as identifying avatar religions.
7. Conduct meaningful discussion with fellow students regarding topics within these religious traditions.
8. Explain the ultimate goal of each Eastern religion.
9. Identify Eastern religious practices present within American society.
10. Reference various modern Eastern religious leaders.

II. Course Policies

A. Participation: Students are required to watch the weekly PowerPoint presentation, complete the weekly assigned reading and homework questions as well as posting on the discussion board each week.

B. Grading: Homework (15 points per assignment), Discussion Board Posts (10 points per post), and Tests (100 points per exam).

C. Worksheet to compile final grade:

Total number of points earned on homework assignments (225 possible) = _____

A

Total number of points earned on discussion board posts (150 possible)

= _____

B

Total number of points earned on exams (500 possible) = _____

A + B + C = _____ Total points earned

Total Points Earned / 875 = _____ Final grade

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59 and below

D. Acceptable style/format of assignments: See weekly instructions

E. Policy on missed deadlines: assignments are due at the end of each week assigned. No late work will be accepted.

F. Final Exams: Week of December 7 -11

G. *Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is any practice which gives one student a dishonorable advantage over another student engaged in the same or similar course of study and which, if known by the instructor in such course of study, would be prohibited. This shall include, but is not limited to, the following: securing or giving assistance during examinations or on required work; the improper use of books, notes, or other sources of information; submitting as one's own work or creation of any kind that which is wholly or in part created by another; securing and/or distributing all or any part of examinations or assignments prior to their being submitted to the class as a whole; or the altering of any grade or academic record.

If an occurrence of Academic Dishonesty is observed on the part of a student, the case shall be handled in accordance with the procedures identified in the Student Handbook.

H. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) notice:

In accordance with the American With Disabilities Act, Eastern West Virginia Technical and Community College's programs and courses will be accessible to the handicapped and disabled. If you have a disability which impairs your access to this course or your ability to pursue the coursework as it is presented, notify the instructor. Eastern's ADA contact is the Student Services Specialist.

- I. Title VII notice:
Eastern West Virginia Technical and Community College is dedicated to ensuring a positive classroom environment. Discriminatory comments and actions based on age, race, religion, marital status, and gender are inappropriate classroom behaviors and will not be tolerated. Any further suggestions that would work to maintain such an environment should be directed to the instructor.
- J. Syllabus Change Statement:
This syllabus is subject to change as determined by the instructor. **Students will be provided a written notification of any changes in course requirements and assignments.**

III. *Course Schedule

- A. Outline of course content:
- Week of August 17 – August 23:** Introduction to the Study of Religion and the Academic Study of Religion.
 - Week of August 24 – August 30:** Hinduism
 - Week of August 31 – September 6:** Hinduism
 - Week of September 7 – September 13:** Hinduism, Exam
 - Week of September 14 – September 20:** Buddhism
 - Week of September 21 – September 27:** Buddhism
 - Week of September 28 – October 4:** Buddhism, Exam
 - Week of October 5 – October 11:** Jainism
 - Week of October 12 –October 18:** Jainism
 - Week of October 19 – October 25:** Sikhism, Exam
 - Week of October 26 – November 1:** Confucianism
 - Week of November 2 – November 8:** Daoism
 - Week of November 9 – November 15:** Daoism, Exam
 - Week of November 16 – November 22:** Eastern Religions in Modern Times
 - Week of November 23 – November 29:** Thanksgiving Break
 - Week of November 30 – December 6:** Eastern Religions in America, Exam with cumulative material

*** Each week's PowerPoint presentation, reading assignment, homework questions, and discussion board posts will be available on the Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College blackboard site.

**Attachment A
General Education Criteria Checklist**

Course Number and Title:	REL 140 Introduction to Eastern Religions
Credit Hours:	3
Proposed General Education Designation:	Humanities & Art

Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
Does the course support one or more of the general education goals defined in BP 3.6 (Specify which goals in comment section)	X		
Does the course match one of the defined general education designations (Specify which designation in comment section)	X		
Is the course currently listed in the College Catalog		X	
Is the course listed at the 100 level or higher	X		
Is the course broad in scope providing an overview of the subject	X		
Do the course outcomes address theoretical foundations of the discipline	X		
Does the course provide students with the opportunity to develop and apply critical thinking and problem solving skills as identified through MCRF or syllabus	X		
Do course outcomes go beyond teaching technique and application	X		
Are course outcomes applicable to multiple professions	X		
Does the course have prerequisites (If, yes, please note specifics in comment section)		X	

(Attach Master Course Record Form)