**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

##### FALL 2009

1. **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

CourseNumber: RELI 1311

CourseTitle**:** World Religions

Credit Hours**:**  3

Prerequisite**:** None

Division and Discipline**:** Liberal Arts and Sciences/Religion

Course Description: A survey of the major religious systems of the world, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Objectivity and impartiality are important characteristics of our study. We seek to understand the world’s religions, not evaluate their comparative merits.

1. **CLASSROOM POLICY**

Students and faculty of Barton Community College constitute a special community engaged in the process of education. The college assumes that its students and faculty will demonstrate a code of personal honor that is based upon courtesy, integrity, common sense, and respect for others both within and outside the classroom.

The College reserves the right to suspend a student for conduct that is detrimental to the College’s educational endeavors as outlined in the College Catalog.

Plagiarism on any academic endeavors at Barton Community College will not be tolerated. Learn the rules of, and avoid instances of, intentional or unintentional plagiarism.

Anyone seeking an accommodation under provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act should notify Student Support Services.

1. **COURSE AS VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CURRICULUM**

A generation ago, as the intellectual leaders of society followed the lead of Nietzsche who had proclaimed the “death” of God, many assumed that as human society progressed towards modernity the “primitive superstitions” of religious belief would gradually disappear. Now, as the 21st century gradually unfolds, it is apparent that this belief was deeply mistaken. Religion has not disappeared. If anything, it is even stronger. Headlines are full of religion. In many parts of the world, fiercely committed individuals are ready to die, even to kill, in the name of their religious tradition; their actions have great power in changing history and disrupting whole societies.

Furthermore, it is indisputable that we live in a world where adherents of widely differing religious faiths interact with each other often. This happens on a global scale, via the internet and also through personal contact—perhaps most dramatically here in North America, the melting pot of the world’s ethnicities and religions. The Comparative World Religions course is designed to help the student understand the “global village” in which he or she now lives. Because a shared language is a vital part of communication, the goal of this course is to give students a better understanding of the common and uncommon words used by the various religious traditions in their texts and rituals. Understanding the various religious beliefs of the world’s population is a vital part of a truly liberal, comprehensive education.

Transferability of college courses varies among institutions, and perhaps among departments, programs or colleges within an institution. Institutional requirements may change without prior notification. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain relevant information from intended transfer institutions to insure that the courses in which the student enrolls are the most appropriate set of courses for transfer.

1. **ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING / COURSE OUTCOMES**

Barton Community College assesses student learning at several levels: institutional, program, degree and classroom. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Results of these activities will be used to improve the content and delivery of Barton’s instructional program

This course will introduce students to the world’s enduring religious traditions from China, India, and the ancient Near East in order to fulfill the following three objectives:

1. The student will be able to explain the belief systems of each world religion examined in the course.
2. The student will be able to distinguish the principles shared between world religions and compare and contrast the unique qualities of each religion.
3. The student will explore the historical and cultural background of each religion in order to better understand the development of each religion and its place in time and history.
4. **COURSE COMPETENCIES**
5. Be able to explain belief in supernatural beings (primarily God).
6. Understand humanity’s relationship to supernatural beings.
7. Explain the creation, purpose and final stages of human existence in each system.
8. Distinguish the doctrinal system that has been established for each religion.
9. Compare each religion’s principles in order to locate their similarities.
10. Diagram the unique qualities of each belief structure in order to establish what sets each religion apart from the rest.
11. Explore the historical roots out of which each religion is birthed.
12. Examine the people groups, their government, philosophies and customs in order to better understand their cultural heritage.
13. Recognize the key people, places and events foundational to each religious tradition.
14. **INSTUCTOR EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS**
15. **TEXTBOOK AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS**

### REFERENCES

1. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION**
2. **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### COURSE OUTLINE