REL101 | **Introduction to Religious Studies**

Course Text

No need to track down a textbook; this text is provided digitally as part of the course enrollment:

Molly, Michael. *Experiencing the World's Religions*. 8th ed., McGraw Hill, 2021.

Course Description

This course introduces the major religions of the world with consideration to origin, history, beliefs, and practices. Students will understand the impact and influence religions have had on human society and development. As religion is a powerful motivator in both ancient and contemporary society, students will examine the importance of religious thought and expression, along with the central elements of a religious worldview (e.g. deity, cosmogony, theodicy, eschatology).

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Define the term religion
2. Analyze the differences between the world religions
3. Explain religious world concepts (such as creation of the world, good and evil, salvation)
4. Discuss religious expression and belief (such as rituals, sacred sites, symbols)
5. Recognize the importance of religion as a participant and an observer
6. Demonstrate the influence major world religions have on society and the importance of studying religion today
7. Identify and evaluate the scholarly methods used in the study of religion
8. Explore and determine the diversity of human religious expression and belief
9. Describe the influence of religion socially and politically on humanity
10. Examine the impact of religion on the development of human society over time and found in different parts of the world

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for Introduction to Religious Studies.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and academic

misconduct. Failure to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy can result in a failure and/or zero on the attempted assignment/examination, a removal from the course, disqualification to enroll in future courses, and/or revocation of an academic transcript.

Course Completion Policy

In order for a course to be considered complete, **all required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded.** Required coursework consists of graded assignments. Any Academic Integrity Policy violations may prevent a course from being considered complete.

Assessment Types

StraighterLine courses may include any combination of the assessment types described below. Review the descriptions to learn about each type, then review the Course Evaluation Criteria to understand how your learning will be measured in this course.

Benchmarks

Benchmarks test your mastery of course concepts. You have 3 attempts, and your highest score counts. **Note:** Cumulative Benchmarks (final exams) only allow 1 attempt.

Capstones

Capstones are project-based assessments that help you apply concepts to real-world scenarios. You have 2 attempts, and your highest score counts.

Checkpoints

Checkpoints are quick knowledge checks on important course concepts. All are open-book, and most have 1-3 attempts.

AI Use-Case Policies

StraighterLine Capstone assessments operate under one of three AI Use-Case Policies. These designations are selected intentionally to support learners in developing digital literacy, ethical reasoning, and authentic communication skills. Each model requires students to engage meaningfully with the course outcomes while adhering to academic standards.

Independent Work Requirement: Capstones with this designation must be completed independently without using AI tools. The goal is for learners to showcase their own understanding and skills without AI assistance. Students are expected to generate and submit original work developed solely through their own reasoning and effort.

AI-Assisted Planning Option: Capstones with this designation may allow AI tools to support brainstorming and assessment planning. If allowed, students will be asked to document any AI assistance by noting how it informed their work. Documentation must be included within the assignment or in a designated reflection field. Examples include describing how an AI tool helped organize an outline, generate ideas, or surface sources for further exploration.

AI-Integration Requirement: Capstones with this designation require AI tools as part of the learning process. Students will be asked to reflect upon their AI interactions and AI contributions to the assessment.

Reflections must include which tools were used, how they were used, and what insights students gained from the process. This promotes transparency, ethical use, and metacognitive skill-building.

Course Evaluation Criteria

Your score provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. A passing percentage is 70% or higher.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
Checkpoint 1: Understanding Religion	90	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Checkpoint 2: Indigenous Religions	40	2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Checkpoint 3: Hinduism	40	2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Checkpoint 4: Buddhism	90	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
Checkpoint 5: The Fundamentals of Jainism and Sikhism	40	2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Checkpoint 6: The Fundamentals of Daoism and Confucianism	40	2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Checkpoint 7: Shinto	40	2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Capstone 1: Compare/Contrast Essay	150	2, 3, 4, 7
Checkpoint 8: Judaism	40	2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Checkpoint 9: Christianity	40	2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Checkpoint 10: Islam	40	2, 3, 4, 6, 8
Benchmark 1: Checkpoints 1-10	100	2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10
Capstone 2: Travel Slideshow Presentation	250	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Total	1000	

Course Roadmap

This roadmap provides an overview of the checkpoints and lessons covered in this course.

Checkpoint 1: Understanding Religion

- Checkpoint 1 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 1
- Chapter 1 Flashcards

Checkpoint 2: Indigenous Religions

- Checkpoint 2 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 2
- Chapter 2 Flashcards

Checkpoint 3: Hinduism

- Checkpoint 3 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 3
- Chapter 3 Flashcards

Checkpoint 4: Buddhism

- Checkpoint 4 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 4
- Chapter 4 Flashcards

Checkpoint 5: The Fundamentals of Jainism and Sikhism

- Checkpoint 5 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 5
- Chapter 5 Flashcards

Checkpoint 6: The Fundamentals of Daoism and Confucianism

- Checkpoint 6 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 6
- Chapter 6 Flashcards

Checkpoint 7: Shinto

- Checkpoint 7 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 7
- Chapter 7 Flashcards

Checkpoint 8: Judiasm

- Checkpoint 8 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Assignment 8
- Chapter 8 Flashcards

Checkpoint 9: Christianity

- Checkpoint 9 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 9
- Chapter 9 Flashcards

Checkpoint 10: Islam

- Checkpoint 10 Presentation
- Textbook Reading Assignment: Chapter 10
- Chapter 10 Flashcards

Related Courses

ART101

Art Appreciation

View Course →

CIV101

Western Civilization I

View Course →

COM101

Introduction to Communications

View Course →