GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

`Curriculum Committee Approval: 02/22/2022

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 03/08/2022

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 140 – RELIGION AND CULTURE

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

RELG 140 Religion and Culture 3

Semester Hours

3 hour lecture: 48-54 hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours              144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

A study of the relationship between religious beliefs and practices and aspects of culture, as represented through contemporary trends in religion and spirituality, creative expression through the arts, and attitudes towards the human body. Emphasis is on major world religions and dominant traditions of Eastern and Western culture.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Identify specific cultural expressions as representing particular tenets of religious beliefs.

b. Illustrate linkages between religion and creative representation.

c. Identify the ways in which religion influences culture and vice versa.

d. Compare and contrast how beliefs and practices can vary across different cultures, even within the same religious tradition.

e. Reflect on their own culture and religious ties in light of major traditions.

f. Analyze the ways in which religion and culture can affect attitudes and behavior towards the human body.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

a. Relationship between religion and culture

1) both establish community

2) both involve search for meaning in human life

3) mutual influence of religion and culture

b. Cultural approach to studying religion

1) how cultures create diversity within the same religion

2) global religions practiced differently in different cultures

3) lived or popular religion

c. Relationship between religious beliefs and artistic expression

1) Judaic tradition.

a) Literary expressions of belief.

b) Visual imagery of the cosmos.

c) Sacred texts in contemporary films

2) Confucianism.

a) Moral system.

b) An ordered universe – visual arts.

3) Taoism.

a) Existence as unity.

b) Religious ritual and symbols in art.

4) Hinduism.

a) Incarnation of the divine and sculpture.

b) Sacred texts as literature and drama.

5) Buddhism

a) Human nature as latent divinity – visual art.

b) Literature and moral codes.

c) Representation of beliefs in contemporary films and television

6) Christianity

a) Iconography and religious belief.

b) Bible as~~,~~ literature, film, and television

7) Islam

a) The divine as represented through calligraphy and architecture

b) Poetry and religious belief.

d. How religion and culture affect attitudes and behaviors towards the body

1) religious and cultural attitudes towards gender

2) religious and cultural attitudes towards clothing and decorating the body

3) religious and cultural attitudes towards food, alcohol, and drugs

4) religious and cultural attitudes towards healing and death

e. Changing nature of religion due to cultural influence

1) Contemporary increase or decrease in religiosity due to cultural trends

2) New religious movements

3) Rise of spirituality and secularism

4) Religious Syncretism

8. Method of Instruction

a. Individualized instruction

b. Individualized feedback on student work

c. Group Discussion

d. Student presentations

e. Guest speakers

f. Instructional videos

g. Lecture

h. Field Trips

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Quizzes on lecture and reading material.

b. Journals asking the students to reflect on their own cultures and religious backgrounds.

c. Midterm and final exams which entail objective and written components.

d. Research projects on New Religious Movements, such as Rastafarianism or Wicca.

f. Special Projects, like analyzing a work of art for its connections to religion

g. Short Essays explaining current religious trends

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Research to prepare for in-class projects,such as presentations on New Religious Movements

b. Term papers require outside research and writing on various religions’ attitudes towards the body

c. Field trips to local houses of worship, such as the Hare Krishna Temple or Unitarian Church

d. Interviews of community or family members

e. Working with other students on group projects, such as preparation of food from students’ religion or culture or a presentation on cultural/religious holidays that students celebrate

11. Representative Texts

a.Representative Texts

1) Comstock, Gary L. *Religious Autobiographies*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2003.~~.~~

2) Forbes, Bruce David, and Jeffrey H. Mahan. *Religion and Popular Culture in America*. 3rd ed., University of California Press, 2017.

3) Hecht, Richard David., and Vincent F Biondo. *Religion and Culture: Contemporary Practices and Perspectives*. Fortress Press, 2012.

4) Lyden, John, and Eric Michael Mazur. *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Popular Culture*. 1st ed., Routledge., 2018.

5) Lyden, John, editor. *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film*. 1st ed., Routledge, 2011.

6) Plate, S. Brent, editor. *Religion, Art and Visual Culture: a Cross-Cultural Reader*. Palgrave, 2002.

7) Rosen, Aaron. *Art and Religion in the 21st Century*. Thames & Hudson, 2015.

8) Klassen, Chris. *Religion & Popular Culture: a Cultural Studies Approach*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

Additional materials may be added at the instructor’s discretion.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

a. Explain how religious beliefs are expressed in at least one work of creative art.

b. Identify one recent trend in religion due to cultural influence.

c. Analyze the relationship between religion and culture.

d. Identify one way in which religion and/or culture affects our attitudes/behavior towards the body.