GROSSMONT COLLEGE

# COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 02/22/2022

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 03/08/2022

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 165 – RELIGION IN AMERICA

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

RELG 165 Religion in America 3

Semester Hours

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

1. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

1. Catalog Description

In this course students will examine the role of religion and religious groups in key events, time periods, regions, and institutions of the United States. The course concentrates on the interaction of religious groups with each other and with the larger society, particularly in relation to the political, economic, geographical, and cultural life of the nation. We will explore the contours of religion in North America from the precolonial times to the present, with special attention paid to American religious diversity and the complexities of American religious life. As we analyze the role of religion in American history, we will view past events through the lens of African-Americans, Native Americans, Latinx Americans, and Asian-Americans, amongst other perspectives. We will also explore the religious dimensions of gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic class.

1. Course Objectives

The student will:

* + 1. Explain and analyze the ways in which religion and religious communities have been influential in the history of the United States.
    2. Identify and describe the influence of factors of race, socio-economic class, age, and gender related to religious communities in U.S. history
    3. Explain and analyze the historical role of religion associated with Native Americans, African-Americans, Latinx American, Jewish Americans, European Americans, Arab Americans, and Asian Americans.
    4. Identify and describe distinctively “American” elements of religion from the 17th century until today.
    5. Identify and describe the role of religion and religious groups related to key events and time periods in United States History.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials required of Student

None

7. Course Content

* + - * 1. Methodology: The dimensions of religion and American history

1. Social life: the importance of race, ethnicity, class, age, and gender
2. Ritual life, doctrine, and ethics
   * + - 1. Pre-Colonial Times: Native American tribal traditions
   1. Farming and nomadic tribes
3. Social life: the importance of ethnicity, age and gender
4. Ritual life, doctrine and ethics
   * + - 1. The Colonial Period
   1. The English Colonies: Anglo-American traditions
5. The Puritans of Massachusetts
6. Witch Trials
7. Rhode Island Baptists
8. Pennsylvania: Quakers and Anabaptists
9. Virginia: The Church of England
   1. The Spanish and Catholic Southwest
10. El Requirimiento
    * + - 1. Revolutionary Era: Emergence of United States Civil Religion
    1. The Constitutional documents as holy writings
    2. Doctrines of the United States
    3. The Bill of Rights as ethical obligations
    4. Mythology of the Independence from Europe
    5. The sacred places of Washington, D.C. and Valley Forge
    6. Influence of Deism on the foundation of the Republic
    7. Social life of the Early United States: comparison of importance of race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, and gender in pre-colonial, colonial, and Revolutionary War periods.
       * + 1. Early Nineteenth Century
11. African-Americans
    * 1. Religion and slavery in the South
      2. African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in the North
      3. Christian Abolitionism
12. The Second Great Awakening: Emergence of Protestant Revivalism
    * 1. Religion on the Frontier
      2. The Chosen Nation Doctrine
      3. The West as sacred space
      4. Manifest Destiny as religious doctrine
13. New Religious Groups
    * 1. The Church of the Latter-Day Saints
      2. Seventh Day Adventists
      3. The Restoration Movement
      4. American Transcendentalism
      5. Free Thought movement
         + 1. The Civil War and Reconstruction: Warring traditions of civil religion
    1. The Public trust: federal vs. state authority
    2. Lincoln and the veneration of the Presidency
    3. Conflicting interpretations of Constitutional truths
    4. Gettysburg as sacred place
       * + 1. The Late Nineteenth-Century: Era of industrialization and immigrations
14. Divisions of Protestants
15. Modernists and Liberals
16. The Social Gospels
17. The Ecumenical Movement
18. Unitarians
19. Fundamentalists and Evangelicals
    * + 1. Righteous opposition to cities, immigrants, and science
        2. Bible Schools
        3. from political apathy to activism
        4. Pentecostals
20. Emergence of Denominations within Judaism
    * 1. The Orthodox: Jews in America
      2. Reform Judaism: American Jews
      3. Conservative Judaism
      4. Anti-Semitism
21. New Religious Groups
    * 1. Jehovah’s Witnesses
      2. Christian Science
      3. Spiritualism
22. Roman Catholics
    * 1. Ethnic Diversity: The Irish, Italians, Poles, Germans, Latinos
      2. Vatican I and public institutions of the United States
23. Social life of the United States: importance of race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, and gender in the 19th century.

* + - * 1. Early Twentieth Century: World Wars and the Great Depression

1. Roman Catholics: “Americanization”
   * 1. The National Bishops Conference
     2. The War Efforts
     3. The New Deal
     4. Catholic and American
        1. Al Smith
        2. John Kennedy
        3. Second Vatican Council
2. Catholic Fundamentalists
   * 1. Charles Coughlin: The radio priest
     2. Fulton Sheen and Pat buchanan
3. African-American and Black Nationalists
   * 1. The Garvey Movement
     2. The Nation of Islam
4. Mid-twentieth Century and the 1960s
   1. The Civil Rights Movement as Expression of Civil Religion
   2. The American Indian Movement and The Religious Freedom Act of 1978
5. Native American Theology
   1. New Religious Communities
      1. Hare Krishnas
      2. The Church of Satan
   2. Ecumenical and Interfaith Movements
6. Late Twentieth and Early Twenty-first Centuries
   1. Immigration Act of 1965
   2. The Turn East
      * 1. Buddhism
        2. Hinduism
        3. Asian-Americans and Religion
   3. Arrivals from the Middle East and Western Asia
      * 1. Muslims
        2. The Baha’i
        3. Zoroastrians
        4. Yezidis
        5. Chaldeans
        6. Sikhs
   4. New Religious Groups
      1. Wicca and Paganism
      2. New Age Movements
      3. The turn to spirituality
      4. The rise of the “nones”
   5. Social life of the United States: comparison of importance of race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, and gender in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

8. Method of Instruction

* 1. Lecture.
  2. Discussion.
  3. Individualized feedback on student work
  4. Student Presentations
  5. Guest Speakers
  6. Instructional Videos
  7. Field-Trips

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Short essay responses to primary source document
2. Short papers describing how religion influenced the development of American institutions, quizzes, in class and/or online
3. Midterm and final exams entailing writing and objective components
4. Special projects, such as visits to local houses of worship or interviews of community members who practice these traditions
5. Student Journals
6. Research projects, such as analyzing the influence of religion on major events in American history, including social factors of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and age.
7. Research paper on a religious movement or organization that began in America, including assessment of factors related to gender, race, socio-economic class, and age.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Readings – focusing on primary source historical documents
2. Research to prepare for student presentations, which might focus on religious traditions that began in the United States or how a tradition adapted to its new American landscape
3. Interviews of community or family members
4. Field-trips to local houses of worship, including visits to the religious communities of Asian-Americans, Arab-Americans, African-Americans, and Latinos/Latinas

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative Texts:

1. Corrigan, John, and Winthrop S. Hudson. *Religion in America*. Ninth ed., Routledge, 2018.
2. Bridgers, Lynn. *The American Religious Experience: A Concise History*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.
3. Lippy, Charles H., and Peter W. Williams. *Encyclopedia of the American Religious EXPERIENCE: Studies of Traditions and Movements*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1988.
4. Manseau, Peter. *One Nation, under Gods: A New American History*. Back Bay Books, an Imprint of Little, Brown and Company, 2016.
5. Meacham, Jon. *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*. Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2007.
6. Stewart, Matthew. *Nature's God: The Heretical Origins of the American Republic*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2015.
7. Eck, Diana L. *A New Religious America*. HarperCollins World, 2002.
8. Gura, Philip F. *American Transcendentalism: A History*. Hill and Wang, 2008.
9. Butler, Jon, et al. *Religion in American Life: A Short History*. Oxford Univ. Press, 2011.
10. Gorski, Philip S. *American COVENANT: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present*. Princeton University Press, 2019.
11. Brekus, Catherine A. *Religious History of American Women: Reimagining the Past*. University of North Carolina Press, 2007.
12. Gates, Henry Louis. *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*. Penguin Press, 2021.
13. Cone, James H., and Cornel West. *Black Theology and Black Power*. Orbis Books, 2018.
14. Isasi-Díaz Ada María. *In the Struggle = En La Lucha: Elaborating a Mujerista Theology*. Fortress, 2003.
15. Romero, Robert Chao. *Brown Church: Five Centuries OF Latina/o Social Justice, Theology, and Identity*. IVP Books, 2020.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

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

* 1. Define “civil religion” and understand what role it played in the construction of the American government.
  2. Understand the influence of religion on key events in American history
  3. Identify at least two religious traditions that began in the United States
  4. Identify and describe distinctively “American” elements of religion from the 17th century until today
  5. Explain and analyze the historical role of religion associated with Native Americans, African-Americans, Latinx Americans, Jewish Americans, European Americans, Arab Americans, and Asian Americans
  6. Identify and describe the influence of factors of race, socio-economic class, age, and gender related to religious communities in U.S. History