<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Course Title:</strong></th>
<th>World Religions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department:</strong></td>
<td>Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Curriculum:</strong></td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date submitted:</strong></td>
<td>May 2019 (AAC: 19-25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Course Code:</strong></th>
<th>PHL*151</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prerequisites:</strong></td>
<td>C- or better in Composition (ENG*101)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Descriptors:** Make certain that the course descriptors are consistent with college and Board of Trustees policies, and the current course numbering system.

**Course Code:** (eg. ACC 101) 
P

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A:</strong> Clinical</th>
<th><strong>B:</strong> Lab</th>
<th><strong>D:</strong> Distance Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I:</strong> Individual/Independent</td>
<td><strong>L:</strong> Lecture</td>
<td><strong>N:</strong> Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M:</strong> Seminar</td>
<td><strong>P:</strong> Practicum</td>
<td><strong>U:</strong> Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>X:</strong> Combined Lecture/Lab</td>
<td><strong>Y:</strong> Combined Lecture/Lab</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective Type:** G/HU/LAS

**Credit Hours:** 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Developmental:</strong> (yes/no)</th>
<th><strong>Lecture:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Clinical:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Lab:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Studio:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Other:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Hours:** 3

**TOTAL:** 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Class Maximum:</strong></th>
<th>25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semesters Offered:</strong></td>
<td>F/Sp/Su</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Catalog Course Description:** This course surveys the spiritual ideas and practices which have sustained human beings in their various environments. The formation and early development of each religious tradition will be examined in historical context. Religious traditions to be examined include the indigenous religions of Africa and the Americas and the major world “source” religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism. Religious Studies is a secular academic discipline that leaves room for a wide range of personal reflection. Key doctrinal, philosophical, ethical, social and psychological dimensions of the religions will be considered (from both content/practice-based and discipline-specific perspectives). A significant portion of learning in this course takes place through fieldwork.
# Course Syllabus

## Topical Outline:

List course content in outline format.

### 1. Orientation: The Descriptive Approach to Religious Studies

A. The Discipline As Secular Field, Both Independent and Sharing Its Subject With Several Other Academic Disciplines
   1. Psychology
   2. History
   3. Sociology
   4. Anthropology
   5. Philosophy
   6. Theology[ies] of individual traditions
   7. Other Discipline-based Approaches

### 2. African Traditional Religions

A. Basic Beliefs
B. Practices
C. Formation and Development
D. Dimensions to be Examined
   1. doctrinal
   2. philosophical
   3. ethical
   4. social
   5. psychological

### 3. Indigenous Religions of the Americas

A. Beliefs
B. Practices
C. Formation and Development
D. Dimensions to be Examined
   1. doctrinal
   2. philosophical
   3. ethical
   4. social
   5. psychological

### 4. Religions Rooted in South Asia – Hinduism and Buddhism

A. Beliefs
B. Practices
C. Formation and Development
D. Dimensions to be Examined
5. Religions Rooted in China – Taoism and Confucianism
   A. Beliefs
   B. Practices
   C. Formation and Development
   D. Dimensions to be Examined
      1. doctrinal
      2. philosophical
      3. ethical
      4. social
      5. psychological

6. Religions Rooted in West Asia – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
   A. Beliefs
   B. Practices
   C. Formation and Development
   D. Dimensions to be Examined
      1. doctrinal
      2. philosophical
      3. ethical
      4. social
      5. psychological

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

COURSE:

1. identify principal elements of the formation, development, practices, social roles, and distinguishing features of major world religious traditions; along with grounds for comparing and contrasting such traditions (Content)

2. identify the basic elements of the major methodologies of academic disciplines whose area of study encompasses religion (including, but not limited to, religious studies as an independent field, psychology, history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy; and theology[ies] of individual traditions) (Methods)
3. demonstrate a progression in levels of writing about religious subjects: from thoughtful but speculative inferences to formal propositions supported by evidence

4. document new or enhanced knowledge of one or more tradition(s) obtained through fieldwork (e.g., service learning or a community partnership)

**PROGRAM:** *(Numbering reflects Program Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)*

N/A

**GENERAL EDUCATION:** *(Numbering reflects General Education Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)*

3. Ethical Dimensions (embedded) - Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social and political problems.

**Demonstrates:** Identifies and reflects critically on ethical issues presented in classroom instruction or in assigned co-curricular or civic activities and/or professional internships and practica.

**Does Not Demonstrate:** Does not sufficiently identify or reflect critically on ethical issues presented in classroom instruction or in assigned co-curricular or civic activities and/or professional internships and practica.

4. Historical Knowledge - Students will study the interrelatedness of various realms of human experience from multiple historical perspectives.

**Demonstrates:** Analyzes and describes with sufficient detail and specific examples the impact of past events on subsequent events.

**Does Not Demonstrate:** Inaccurately or insufficiently analyzes and describes the impact of past events on subsequent events.

**Evaluation:** List how the above outcomes will be assessed.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:
Tests; one major paper of at least eight to ten pages (2200-2700 words)—or, as an alternative, a summative reflection and self-assessment of the same length, organized according to the ABE course abilities and distilled from the semester’s key insights (as developed in weekly reflective writing that has engaged the practice of such abilities in critical reading and discussions)—and, at the instructor’s discretion, quizzes; discussions (in-class or distance, according to course medium); oral presentations; and group projects.

**Instructional Resources:**

**List library (e.g. books, journals, on-line resources), technological (e.g. Smartboard, software), and other resources (e.g. equipment, supplies, facilities) required and desired to teach this course.**

**Required:** Current library and technological resources are adequate for this course.

**Desired:** None.
| Textbook(s) | Check with department chair for list of approved texts. |