

## Master Syllabus

### 1. Course Information

**College:** College of Liberal Arts  
**Department:** Religion  
**Course Title:** Comparative Nonwestern Religions  
**Course Designation and Number:** CST 232  
**GE Area(s):** II: Cultural and social Foundations  
The Non-Western World  
VI: College Component

**Writing Intensive:**  Yes  No

**For WI Courses:**  All sections  Selected Sections are WI.

**Method(s) of Instruction:**  Lecture  
 Discussion  
 Web-enhanced  
 Web-only  
 Other: Small group activities

**Includes Lab:**  Yes  No

**Prerequisites:** None

### 2. Objectives

#### **GE General Program Objectives:**

...to sharpen critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills.

#### **GE Area Two Objectives:**

- a. Describe and analyze historical-social elements of nonwestern culture.
- b. Describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and individuals.

#### **GE Area Six Objectives:**

- a. Communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists.
- b. Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events and life endeavors.
- c. Meet objective (b) of GE Area One: develop logical and fair arguments, and observe appropriate writing conventions.

#### **Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:**

This course is deliberately structured to foster skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and interpersonal communications. Weekly assignments focus on close reading of a very diverse set of texts. A central purpose of this introductory class is to foster a sympathetic understanding of different ways of being-in-the-world. Class enrollment is limited to 40 students. The class includes discussion and less lecture and gives students the opportunity to freely express their views and sharpen their communications skills. Examinations test not only student knowledge of facts about nonwestern cultures but also student comprehension of differences between diverse cultures.

**Area two learning outcome(s) addressed:**

Describes and analyzes religious experience in nonwestern cultures.

Describes and analyzes the global interdependence of groups and individuals.

**Area six learning outcome(s) addressed:**

Communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists

Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors

**For WI Courses:** WAC Objectives

- Improves students' writing proficiency
- Uses as a tool for learning what one knows and does not know

Typically, instructors in CST 232 use the following kinds of assignments: essay questions on quizzes and examinations and/or formal critical papers. Some also use one or more of the following kinds of assignments: reading journals; in-class reading responses; electronic class discussion groups (through chat rooms or email); In all sections of CST 232, all or nearly all the course grade is based on written assignments. Students who cannot complete the writing-intensive portion of the course will not receive a C or better in the course grade.

**3. Suggested Course Materials**

Text(s): *Patterns of Religion* by Roger Schmidt

Excerpts from *Ways of Being Religions* by Gary E. Kessler, ed. (on line)  
Excerpts from *Our Religions*, ed. Arvind Sharma (on line).

**4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation**

Three tests and one paper. Giving students the option of revising their paper is required.

**5. Grading Policy**

All GE courses are graded A-F.  
WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory.

**6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments**

- Wk 1:      Introductory remarks. Introduction to the Study of Religion.  
  
            What is Religion?  
            Three Expressions of Religion
- Wk 2:      Hinduism: Film  
            Hinduism: Origins  
            Hinduism: Moksha
- Wk 3:      Hinduism: *Dharma*.  
            Hinduism: Gods and Goddess
- Wk 4:      Bhatki  
            Hinduism: *darshan* and *puja*  
            Buddhism: Film
- Wk 5:      **EXAM I**  
            Buddhism: The Life of the Buddha  
            Buddhism: The Four Noble Truths
- Wk 6:      Buddhism: Theravada  
            Buddhism: Mahayana – Multiplying Buddhas and Bodhisattvas  
            Buddhism: Emptiness  
            Paper due
- Wk 7:      Chinese Religions: Film  
            Taoism: Lao Tzu and the Tao  
            Taoism: Chuang Tzu and Religious Taoism
- Wk 8:      Exam #2