

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**Academic School / Department:** Social Sciences and Humanities

**Programme:** Study Abroad

**FHEQ Level:** 5

**Course Title:** Comparative World Religions

**Course Code:** RELG/SOCL 5601

**Total Hours:** 120

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning Hours: 75

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course explores the monotheistic religions of the Near East (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), those of India and the Far East (Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism), and the 'new-age' faiths. The history, culture, society, and practice of each is studied. Special emphasis is laid on the philosophical and psychological basis of each religion and common themes such as the self, suffering, free will, and ethics. Primary and secondary sources are studied along with an examination of methodology in comparative religion.

### **Prerequisites:**

40 Credits

Students will not be able to take the four-credit version of this course if they had previously taken this three-credit course.

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To acquire a knowledge of the different methodologies of comparative religion and feel confident in using the terminology of the discipline, with full awareness of the intercultural issues involved.
- To acquire a detailed knowledge of traditional theological and philosophical problems in comparative religion such as the question of free will, evil and suffering.
- To develop a detailed knowledge of the history and beliefs of the world's major faiths.

**Programme Outcomes:**

A5II

B5I

C5I

D5I

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Engage in a detailed way with key problems in the history of religious philosophy, such as the nature of evil and the question of human freedom.
- Use the basic conceptual vocabulary of comparative religion appropriately, including reference to their 'inside' or 'outside' speaking position.
- Accomplish a place of worship visit and write about the experience convincingly.
- Write a scholarly essay including proper referencing appropriate to the last two years of their studies to contextualise current debates about religion and social/ethical issues, with a detailed knowledge of the intellectual background to these disputes.

**Indicative Content:**

- Theology
- Epistemology
- Ontology
- Religious philosophy
- Non-Western philosophical frameworks

