

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	School of Liberal Arts
<b>Programme:</b>	Liberal Arts Core
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	Comparative World Religions
<b>Course Code:</b>	RLG 5100
<b>Course Leader:</b>	James Earl
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall, Spring, Summer
<b>Credits:</b>	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 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:**

GEP 4180 or ARW 4195

### **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:**

A3, A6

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 year 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

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

**Teaching Methodology:**

Course meetings consist of highly interactive conversations about philosophical topics, where the tutor presents a problem and guides the class discussion. One session each week is devoted to the critical examination of a seminal text, whereas the other session is a presentation of the thematic material.

***Indicative Text(s):***

Hinnell, J. (ed.), (1997). *The New Penguin Handbook of Living Religions*. London: Penguin Books

***Journals***

**Web Sites**

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Programme Outcomes to reflect new Liberal Arts programme	February 2018	