

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: **RL 103 Asian Religions**

Credits: 3

Prerequisites

EN 101

Description

This course presents an introduction to the major Asian religious, philosophical, and cultural traditions with emphasis on the cultural roots of each religious tradition, the analysis of its principal teachings and practices, and the major cultural expressions. The survey includes Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism and Shinto.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the essential characteristics of religious, cultural and historical characteristics of the belief systems.
- Identify the similarities and dissimilarities of the religions.
- Recognize the global implications of the religious and philosophical traditions.
- Discuss the basic issues of religious dialogue in a pluralistic environment.

Related General Education Outcomes

Global & Cultural Awareness (Diversity)

- Students will link cultural practices and perspectives with geographic and/or historical conditions from which they arose.
- Students will recognize and explain the possible consequences of prejudicial attitudes and discriminatory actions.

Humanistic Perspective (A&H)

- Students will describe commonly used approaches and criteria for analyzing works.
- Students will analyze works and applying commonly used approaches and criteria.

Topical Outline

- India before the Vedas
- Veda and the Vedas
- Upanishads
- Bhagavad Gita
- Hinduism
- The Life of the Buddha
- Basic Teachings of the Buddha
- Theravada Buddhism
- Mahayana Buddhism
- Confucius and Confucianism

- Daoism
- Shinto
- Zen Buddhism

Required Texts and Other Materials

Awakening: An Introduction to the History of Eastern Thought by Bresnan, Patrick S., 5th edition: Prentice Hall/Pearson.

Student Assessment

The student's learning assessment will be based on in-class exams that will cover the readings, class discussions, lecture notes, and handouts. A final project will be accomplished that provides an opportunity to apply that which has been learned to a new situation. Participation in class discussions, group exercises and panel discussions are also included in the semester's evaluation. Each student is responsible for keeping an academically focused reflective journal during the semester. Additional student work which will provide evaluation of student learning includes attending a religious service and watching popular movies to identify religious themes.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation.

Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a "criminal" offense.

As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Available Resources

If you are having difficulty with work in this class, tutoring is available through the Success Center. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600, x1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

(List availability of open labs and/or writing center)

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.