

# Course Syllabus

Spring 2023

## I. Course Information

Course Title: Comparative Religion

Email: manleyj@f.edu

Course No. and Section: REL2300 70

Instructor Name: James M. Manley, Ph.D.

Meeting Day & Time: Online

Credit Hours: 3

Course Location: Online

Meeting Dates: Online

Office Location: 2-115

Office Hours: M 9-3

I am available during the times posted to discuss the course and your progress. Other than in person, Canvas messaging or email is the best way to contact me; please include "REL2300" in the subject line if you choose email.

I do not use the telephone to communicate with students, not because I do not like talking with students, but because I do not like the telephone.

Extended Emergency Closure

"For emergency campus closings (natural disasters, etc.) call 352-291-4499 or 800-831-9244 or check our [website](#) (CF.edu)."

## II. Course Description

**Course description:** You will be introduced to the academic study of religion by encountering the major religious expressions in the world today, especially Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as well as New Religious Movements

**Teaching philosophy:** You'll need a few things to succeed in this course.

First, you'll need access to a computer and a reliable internet connection.

Remember that there are several computer labs on all CF campuses for you to use.

You will also need a way to take notes during the presentations. Many people these days like to type their notes during a presentation, but that can be difficult when the monitor is being used to view the presentations. Most people, I've found, take better notes in this situation using old-fashioned paper and pen.

You will also need the required text, Robert E. Van Voorst's RELG: World, fourth edition (Cengage, 2020; ISBN-10: 0357044762 ISBN-13: 9780357044766). The third edition (2017) is perfectly fine to use and is likely available much less expensively. The Cengage access code may be useful but it is not essential.

You will also need courage. Learning is challenging, and not for cowards or the faint of heart. You've somehow found the strength to enroll in college and register for this course—that's a fantastic start.

You will need courage to address those questions which are the most ultimately real and basic. Our answers to the most basic questions of religious importance provide the foundations for our entire way of looking at the world. Facing these questions will require courage. Learning is challenging. Do you want to succeed in life? You will need courage. The same is true for this course. You will need courage. Find it and I will guide you as you move forward. Do that and you will be rewarded at the end of the semester with increased confidence in your ability to face challenges.

Required Text Title: RELG: World

ISBN No.: 0357044762

Author of Text: Robert E. Van Voorst

Edition: 4<sup>th</sup> (earlier editions are fine)

### **III. Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives**

<p><b>Global Socio-Cultural Responsibility: The student will be an informed and responsible citizen in social, cultural, and global matters.</b></p>	<p>Exam</p>
<p>1. Demonstrate an understanding of the values and expressions of other cultures that arise from human experience.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>2. Identify scientific principles underlying human influence upon the Earth and its inhabitants.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>3. Recognize complex historical, cultural, economic, and political forces that create societies as well as how these forces shape personal identity.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>4. Understand the local and global connections among power, knowledge, gender, and class.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>5. Understand the local and global connections between self-direction, cooperation, respect, responsibility, integrity, and social success.</p>	<p>X</p>

## IV. Assessment

You have a variety of ways to earn points toward your grade in this course. There are a number of discussions worth 1 point each; fourteen quizzes worth 10 points each; and a final exam worth 100 points. Your final grade is simply a percentage of the points you earned out of the points possible in the course.

**Due dates and deadlines:** “Due dates” and “deadlines” are different things and not synonymous.

For each **quiz and assignment**, there is a "due date" and a "deadline." The deadline is typically a week after the due date (*with the possible exception of the last few quizzes*, of course). The due dates are intended to keep you on track; if you miss one or two due dates, don't worry about it: simply complete the quiz or assignment by the deadline for full credit.

There will be no extensions of the deadline for quizzes or assignments. Again, I advise you not to wait until the last minute, and see no reason to reward you for ignoring my advice.

**The final exam's** due date is also its deadline.

Again, this is a friendly warning from experience: if you plan on hitting the deadlines exactly, you will run into technical issues and other distractions that will take a cut out of your grade.

**Academic Integrity:** You may use notes, handouts, the textbook, or additional resources on all the quizzes and discussions, but all the work must be your own and not plagiarized from other sources. You are expected, on your honor, to complete the quizzes and discussions without help from any other person (that is, no one else is taking the assignment for you, or communicating to you the answers to the questions on your assignments). The final exam is closed-book, meaning no notes or other resources may be used. Cheating on the assignments or any other form of academic dishonesty will *not* be tolerated. The penalties for such behavior range

from an FF in the course to expulsion from the college. No excuses will be considered.

**Attendance:** “First attendance” is defined by the federal government as any meaningful interaction between the student and the instructor. “First attendance” I interpret to mean the submission of the first assignment. If you do not submit the first assignment by the second week of class, don’t be surprised if you have to contact me about notifying the financial aid department.

**Withdrawal:** It is your responsibility to manage your enrollment status in this course. Please get good advice about your particular situation. See the college policy on withdrawing from the course on the left side of the homepage on Canvas.

**Technical Assistance:** The College of Central Florida maintains an outstanding team of instructional technicians to assist you in the online portion of this course. ***I am not on that team.*** If you have any computer or internet problems, technical questions, or need technical assistance in any way with accessing any portion of this course, please contact Distance Learning Assistance at [dlhelp@cf.edu](mailto:dlhelp@cf.edu) or 352-854-2322 ext 1317.

If you do not have a computer or a high-speed internet connection, please make use of the computer labs on campus. On the Ocala campus, I recommend the computers in the Learning Resource Center in the Library (the large room on the first floor). It is open whenever the Library is open. Headphones are available for free check-out with your student ID if you do not bring your own headphones.

**Grading scale:**

A 90-100

B+ 87-89

B 80-86

C+ 77-79

C 70-76

D 60-69

F 0-59

**Proctoring:** In order to verify student identity on assessments, this course requires 1 proctored assessment. Assessments are proctored online through Honorlock. If you plan to take a proctored exam online, you will be required to have access to a computer with Google Chrome, webcam and microphone (which all students have in our computer labs here at CF).

**V. Course Schedule/Outline**

The course schedule may be easily ascertained by viewing the Modules page on Canvas.

Due to unforeseen happenings, it may be necessary for the course assignment schedule to be altered. The instructor will always strive to be fair about any changes.

The College of Central Florida is committed to helping you succeed and achieve your academic, personal and career goals. There are a wide range of resources and support services available to you. When students are connected early to resources and support systems on campus they are more likely to stay in classes, perform better in those classes, and complete their path more quickly. One example is

through an Early Support Program, where you may receive an email indicating your professor or advisor is reaching out directly to help connect you to support services. This may include connecting you to tutoring, financial support, psychological support services, and disability services just to name a few. Be aware, you can also reach out to these services on your own as well. Additionally, we offer free tutoring, disability services, a testing center, and many other resources which are all available to you. [Please refer to the College Resources, Dates, and Policies document in your Canvas course to learn more about these supports.](#)

**CF STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** – For confidential help with personal problems that might affect your school, work, or home life, contact BAY CARE LIFE MANAGEMENT, whose counseling services are FREE to all active CF students. Call them toll-free at (800) 878-5470, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am-5:00 pm. For emergency counseling at other times, leave a message at the same number, and an on-call therapist will respond quickly. Your instructors will never be notified that you called.