

# LISGAR COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE



**DEPARTMENT:** Social Science and Library

**COURSE NAME:** World Religions

**COURSE CODE:** HRT3M

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## OVERVIEW

In World Religions: Beliefs, Issues, and Religious Traditions, we will explore the religious impulse in human beings as it has been experienced through time and examine how it has motivated human beings in their actions. We will focus on religion as a cultural phenomenon in modern day Canada and the world, particularly on individual students' own sense of the religious in relation to your own personal experience and the ideas and viewpoints to which you are exposed throughout the course.

This course enables students to discover what others believe and how they live, and to appreciate their own unique heritage. Students will learn about the teachings and traditions of a variety of religions, the connections between religion and the development of civilizations, the place and function of religion in human experience, and the influence of a broad range of religions on contemporary society. This course also introduces students to skills used in researching and investigating world religions.

## COURSE CONTENT

- EXAMPLES OF UNIT TOPICS AND TASKS FOR EACH  
(Note that topics, tasks and due dates may vary from the list below)

### A: Dissecting the Religious Impulse

- Thematic Exploration
- Personal Reflection & Sharing
- Comparative Issues in World Religions
- World Religions and their Critics
- Regular Journal Entries reflecting on your own sense of the religious in relation to your own personal experience and the ideas and viewpoints to which you are exposed throughout the course. Evaluated at intervals throughout the year; may culminate in the final summative assignment option of presenting your personal exploration to the class.
- Smaller Tasks as assigned
- Test: A test comprised of true and false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, mix and match, short and longer answer questions.

### B: Religions Through Time

- Historic Overview of Religion Through Time
- The Religious Impulse in Pre-Historic Times
- A Survey of Selected Ancient Religions
- Survey of World Religions
- Smaller Tasks as assigned
- Test: A test comprised of true and false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, mix and match, short and longer answer questions.

### C: Contemporary Issues Relating to the Religious

- Story Analysis and Sharing

- Religion in Canada Through Time
- Understanding the Religious Context of Current World Conflicts
- Media Analysis and Presentation
- Smaller Tasks as assigned
- Test: A test comprised of true and false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, mix and match, short and longer answer questions.

## **OVERALL CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS**

### **Learning Objectives**

#### **Religious Beliefs**

- **summarize the major historical influences on and events in the development of various religions; analyze the similarities and differences between the central beliefs of various religions; analyze and describe the connection between human experience and sacred writings and oral teachings; demonstrate how practice, ritual, and symbolism are external representations of the beliefs and principles of religion.**

#### **Social Structures**

- **summarize the ways in which religions and the development of civilizations are connected; analyze the influence of religion on artistic expression; describe the influence that differing gender-role expectations have had on the development of religion; demonstrate an understanding of religious pluralism as a defining feature of contemporary Canadian society.**

#### **Religion and the Human Experience**

- **identify the function of religion in human experience; demonstrate an ability to recognize prejudices associated with, and misconceptions about, various religions, beliefs, and traditions; analyze the significance of religion or other belief systems in the lives of various historical figures; speculate on the present and future roles of religion.**

#### **Research and Inquiry Skills**

- **use appropriate theories and analyses of religion in preparing an independent study distinguish between fact and opinion, belief and religion, and theory and practice, as they apply to the study of religion; identify the implications of different research methodologies in the study of religion; employ at least one of the following research methodologies in an independent study: opinion survey, demographic study, in-depth interview, database search, exploration of primary sources; communicate the results of these inquiries effectively; demonstrate effective collaborative group skills.**

## **LEARNING SKILLS**

The development of sound learning skills is essential to the success of our students. Teachers and students will work together to understand and further the development of student learning skills in the areas of initiative, work habits, organization, team work, and independent work. Teachers report on learning skills on the midterm and final report cards.

## **ASSESSMENT METHODS**

The course consists of six main components, each of which surfaces interactively and periodically in class throughout a given week of study. These components are:

- Primary and Secondary Source Focus, Discussion
- Lecture, Reading & Discussion
- Independent Reading, Assignments, Research & Projects
- Group Activity / Debate / Dramatization / Film / Discussion
- Student Presentations & Discussions

- Testing of knowledge  
Please refer to the Lisgar Assessment and Evaluation Policy.

## EVALUATION

### Course Work (70%)

1. Application	17.5 %
2. Knowledge/Understanding	17.5 %
3. Communication	17.5 %
4. Thinking/Inquiry/Problem Solving	17.5 %

### Summative (10 %)

- Independent project (written) and Roundtable Seminar (oral)

Summative Due Date(s): Early January

### Exam (20%)

## ATTENDANCE

If you are absent from class, you are expected to catch up what you missed and complete any relevant homework. When you return to class, you must show your teacher an Absence Verification Form.

If you know in advance that you will be absent for a test, please see your teacher **before** the scheduled test date to arrange an alternate time to write it.

If you are unexpectedly absent for a valid reason on the day of a scheduled test, please let your teacher know why. When you return to class, remember to show an Absence Verification Form from your homeroom teacher and a note from your parents indicating that they are aware you missed the test. An **unjustified absence** for a test may result in a **mark of zero**.

## SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Text: "Exploring World Religions" (\$60-00)