



Your University of Choice

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Term: Fall 2015 (20151)

### INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES- RLST 130X

<b>Instructor Information:</b>	
<b>Instructor Name</b>	Br. Jerry Schwieterman, C.P.P.S.
<b>Office Number:</b>	408
<b>Phone Number:</b>	219-473-4239
<b>Email:</b>	jschwieterman@ccsj.edu
<b>Other Contact :</b>	
<b>Hours Available:</b>	<b>Monday – Friday 10 - 4</b>
<b>Instructor Background:</b> I am a member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. The Missionaries of the Precious Blood sponsors Calumet College of Saint Joseph. B.S. in Business Administration, (Saint Joseph College) Master in Theological Studies, (University of Dallas) <b>Missionaries of the Precious Blood website - <a href="http://cpps-preciousblood.org">http://cpps-preciousblood.org</a></b>	

<b>Course Information:</b>	
<b>Course Time:</b>	<b>Tuesday 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.</b>
<b>Classroom:</b>	263
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	RLST 110; EWPC 103; EPWC 150
<b>Textbooks:</b>	Bowker, John. <i>World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored and Explained</i> . New York: DK Publishing, 1997/2003/2006. Bible Handouts
<b>Learning Outcomes/ Competencies</b> - Upon finishing this course, students will be able to: 1. Speak, read and write critically about religion, faith, belief and theology; 2. Explain what “religion” is and why it is important in today’s society; 3. Describe the history, beliefs, ethics, and the ways of worship of major world religions; 4. Search for your own religious roots in a more mature, reasoned manner; 5. Interpret the bible and to become familiar with it; 6. Explain why Christians believe that Jesus Christ is unique;	

7. Discuss major themes of theology - Revelation, Christ, the Trinity, the history of theology.

**Course Description:** In this course, students seek what is true and holy in the world's great religious traditions through encounter with diverse faith communities, with critical and constructive reflection on their history, beliefs, morals, and ways of worship. These diverse traditions are brought into dialogue with Catholic theology and with the students' own religious roots or philosophical views. A visit to a faith community is a requirement of this course. The Signature oral exam and writing assignment are requirements of this course.

**Learning Strategies:** Various learning strategies will be used: research, presentations, and discussions. Participation is crucial to learning. Actively discussing the subject either in small or large groups is important in the learning process. Respect for one another's comments, whether we agree or not, is important to building fruitful, respectful communication and discussion. When we discuss theology and religions, we are discussing ideas that are "sacred" to various people. Thus, we must always be mindful of respect. Disrespectful behavior (argumentative; distributive; not discussing in small/large groups; texting/mobile phones) will not be tolerated and will affect your participation grade as it creates an unproductive educational environment for learning by the students within the class. If behavior becomes problematic, you will be invited either to leave the class or to drop the course.

**Experiential Learning Strategies:** Problem-based learning activities and service learning.

### Assignments/Assessments

<b>Major Assignments/Summative Assessments:</b>	Papers/Presentations	40%
	Midterm Exam	25%
	Final Exam	25%
	Attendance/Participation	10%

### Signature Assignments

This General Education class will help you prepare for CCSJ's Signature Assignments, a common written and oral project that students complete in Social Justice as freshmen, Religious Studies as sophomores, and Philosophy as juniors. Signature Assignments are assessed for written communications, oral communications, and critical thinking. You must meet required scores in Religious Studies to move ahead to Philosophy, and in Philosophy to complete your General Education program.

Other assignments will be explained in class (papers, presentations, etc.).

### Course Schedule

1. **September 01 Introduction/Faith**
  - ❖ **Introduction to one another and the course./ What is Faith**
2. **September 08 Faith/Religion**
  - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, “What is Religion” and “Ancient Religions” pp. 6-17.
3. **September 15 Religion/ Native Religion**
  - ❖ **Read:** Bowker: “Native Religions” pp. 196-207.
4. **September 22 Hinduism**
  - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pp. 18-43
5. **September 29 Buddhism**
  - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pp. 58-81
6. **October 06 Islam**
  - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pages 174-19
7. **October 13 Exam**
8. **October 20 Judaism**
  - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pages 122-147
9. **October 27 Christianity**
  - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pp. 148 - 173
10. **November 03 Christianity: Early Christianity**
  - ❖ **Read:** Handout
11. **November 10 Bible**
  - ❖ **Read:** Handout
12. **November 17 Jesus Christ**
  - ❖ **Read:** Handout
13. **November 24 What is the Church?**
  - ❖ **Read:** Handout
14. **December 01 Review/Final Exam**
  - ❖ **Read:** Handout
15. **December 08 Final Exam**

## Grading Scale:

Grade	Points
A	100-92
A-	91-90
B+	89-88
B	87-82
B-	81-80
C+	79-78
C	77-72
C-	71-70
D+	69-68
D	67-62
D-	61-60
F	59 and below

<b>Responsibilities</b>	
<b>Attending Class</b>	You cannot succeed in this class if you do not attend. We believe that intellectual growth and success in higher education occur through interaction in the classroom and laboratories. However, we do not want to penalize students for participating in college-sponsored events. When you miss class because of a college event, you must give notice of your absence in advance, and you are responsible for all missed work. Being absent doesn't excuse you from doing class work; you have <b>more</b> responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course.
<b>Turning in your work</b>	You cannot succeed in this class if you do not turn in all your work on the day it is due. Please turn your assignments in class on the date they are due. No late work will be accepted without consent of the professor.
<b>Using Electronic Devices</b>	Electronic devices can only be used in class for course-related purposes. If you text or access the Internet for other purposes, you may be asked to leave, in which case you will be marked absent.
<b>Participating in class</b>	This is very important. Your attendance and participation in each class is vital. It will be part of your assessment for the class.
<b>Doing your own work</b>	If you turn in work that is not your own, you are subject to judicial review, and these procedures can be found in the College Catalog and the Student

	<p>Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.</p> <p>Using standard citation guidelines, such as MLA or APA format, to document sources avoids plagiarism. The Library has reference copies of each of these manuals, and there are brief checklists in your Student Handbook and Planner.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.</p>
<b>Withdrawal from Class</b>	After the last day established for class changes has passed (see the College calendar), you may withdraw from a course by following the policy outlined in the CCSJ Course Catalog.

<b>Resources</b>	
<b>Student Success Center:</b>	The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help you master specific subjects and develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. You can contact the Student Success Center at 219 473-4287 or stop by the Library.
<b>Disability Services:</b>	Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic services in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If you believe that you need a “reasonable accommodation” because of a disability, contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 219-473-4349.
<b>CCSJ Alert:</b>	<p>Calumet College of St. Joseph’s emergency communications system will tell you about emergencies, weather-related closings, or other incidents via text, email, or voice messages. Please sign up for this important service annually on the College’s website at: <a href="http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html">http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html</a>.</p> <p>In addition, you can check other media for important information, such as school closings:</p> <p><b>Internet:</b> <a href="http://www.ccsj.edu">http://www.ccsj.edu</a>  <b>Radio:</b> WAKE – 1500 AM, WGN – 720 AM, WIJE – 105.5 FM, WLS – 890 AM, WZVN – 107.1 FM, WBBM NEWS RADIO 78  <b>TV Channels:</b> 2, 5, 7, 9, 32</p>