



Your University of Choice

COURSE SYLLABUS

Term: Spring 2016 (20152)

INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES- RLST 130X

Instructor Information:	
Instructor Name	Br. Jerry Schwieterman, C.P.P.S.
Office Number:	408
Phone Number:	219-473-4239
Email:	jschwieterman@ccsj.edu
Other Contact :	
Hours Available:	Monday – Friday 10 - 4
Instructor Background: 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) Missionaries of the Precious Blood website - http://cpps-preciousblood.org	

Course Information:	
Course Time:	Tuesday 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Classroom:	263
Prerequisites:	RLST 110; EWPC 103; EPWC 150
Textbooks:	Bowker, John. <i>World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored and Explained</i> . New York: DK Publishing, 1997/2003/2006. Bible Handouts
Learning Outcomes/ Competencies - 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

Major Assignments/Summative Assessments:	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. January 12 Introduction/Faith**
 - ❖ **Introduction to one another and the course./ What is Faith**

- 2. January 19 Faith/Religion**
 - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, “What is Religion” and “Ancient Religions” pp. 6-17.

- 3. January 26 Religion/ Native Religion**
 - ❖ **Read:** Bowker: “Native Religions” pp. 196-207.

- 4. February 2 Hinduism**
 - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pp. 18-43

- 5. February 9 Buddhism**
 - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pp. 58-81

- 6. February 16 Islam**
 - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pages 174-195

- 7. February 23 Exam**

- 8. March 8 Judaism**
 - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pages 122-147

- 9. March 15 Christianity: Early Christianity**
 - ❖ **Read:** Bowker, pages 150-173

- 10. March 22 Bible**
 - ❖ **Read:** Handout

- 11. March 29 Jesus Christ**
 - ❖ **Read:** Handout

- 12. April 5 Sacraments/Liturgy**
 - ❖ **Read:** Handout

- 13. April 12 What is Church?**
 - ❖ **Read:** Handout

- 14. April 19 Review**

- 15. April 26 Oral 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

Responsibilities	
Attending Class	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 more responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course.
Turning in your work	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.
Using Electronic Devices	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.
Participating in class	This is very important. Your attendance and participation in each class is vital. It will be part of your assessment for the class.
Doing your own work	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 Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College. 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. PLEASE NOTE: All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.
Withdrawal from Class	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.

Resources	
Student Success Center:	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.
Disability Services:	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.
CCSJ Alert:	<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: http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html.</p> <p>In addition, you can check other media for important information, such as school closings:</p> <p>Internet: http://www.ccsj.edu Radio: WAKE – 1500 AM, WGN – 720 AM, WIJE – 105.5 FM, WLS – 890 AM, WZVN – 107.1 FM, WBBM NEWS RADIO 78 TV Channels: 2, 5, 7, 9, 32</p>