

## Application for General Education and/or Gordon Rule Writing Certification

I. A.) Course Number and Title: \_REL 2300 Intro to World Religions\_\_\_\_\_

B.) Credit Hours: \_\_3\_\_\_\_\_

C.)

Prerequisites: None\_\_\_\_\_

D.) Current Classification

1. General Education Code:  B  C  D  H  M  N  P  S  None

2. Gordon Rule (Writing):  E2  E4  E6  None

3. Gordon Rule (Math):  M  None

### Requests:

II. General Education

A.) Requested Classification:  B  C  D  H  M  N  P  S

B.) Effective Date:  Fall  Spring 2011   
Summer \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

Or

1-time Approval \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

C.) General Education purpose and learning outcomes for the course? [Detailed attached response requested.] See Attached Syllabus

III. Gordon Rule

A.) Requested Classification for course  E2  E4  E6

B.) Writing Requirements:

1.) Number of papers, essays, etc. with word count specified.

2.) Due Dates? Returned with feedback dates?

3.) What type of feedback will be provided the student (in reference to writing skill)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade      \_\_\_\_\_ Corrections      \_\_\_\_\_ Drafts      \_\_\_\_\_ Other

#### 4.) Assessment

- a.) Will the written work be evaluated for grammar, punctuation and proper usage of standard written English?
- b.) Will written work be evaluated for an effectiveness, organization, clarity and coherence of writing?
- c.) Will a published rubric be used?

#### IV. Syllabus

Courses that offer students General Education and/or Gordon Rule credit must provide clear and explicit information for the students about the classification and requirements.


A.) For courses with a General Education classification, the syllabus should include:

- Statement of the General Education Purpose of the Course with attention to the General Education Classification requested
- List of assigned General Education Student Learning Outcomes
- List of any other relevant Student Learning Outcomes
- List of required and optional texts
- Weekly course schedule with sufficient detail (e.g. topics, assigned readings, other assignments, due dates)

B.) For courses with Gordon Rule (writing) classification, the syllabus should include:

- A description/list of Gordon Rule expectations for students (word count, page lengths and deadlines for assignments).
- A statement to the effect that students written assignments will be evaluated with respect to grammar, punctuation, and usage of standard written English, as well as clarity, coherence, and organization. Reference rubric.
- A statement indicating that students will receive feedback on written assignments prior to the last class meeting.
- Assessment note to include basis for grading (rubric) and a statement identifying the two components of the grading, letter grade for course and approved completion of the writing portion of the course.

#### V. Submission and Approvals

A.) Submitted by (Signature of Instructor):   
Date 1-10-11

B.) Department Approval: 

C.) College Approval: SA/LS 1/10/2011

D.) Committee Action:  Approved  Denied  Tabled Date \_\_\_\_\_

## General Education and Gordon Rule Descriptions and Assessments

### I. General Education

#### A. Description of Areas

##### Composition (C)

Composition courses provide instruction in the methods and conventions of standard written English (i.e., grammar, punctuation, usage) and the techniques that produce effective texts. Composition courses are writing intensive, require multiple drafts submitted to the instructor for feedback prior to final submission, and fulfill 6,000 of the university's 24,000-word writing requirement.

##### Diversity (D)

Diversity courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that create cultural differences within the United States. These courses encourage you to recognize how social roles and status affect different groups and impact U. S. society. These courses guide you to analyze and to evaluate your own cultural norms and values in relation to those of other cultures, and to distinguish opportunities and constraints faced by other persons and groups.

##### Humanities (H)

Humanities courses provide instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a humanities discipline. The courses focus on the history, theory and methodologies used within that discipline, enabling you to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

##### International (N)

International courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that constitute the culture of countries outside the United States. These courses lead you to understand how geographic location and socioeconomic factors affect these cultures. Through analysis and evaluation of your own cultural norms and values in relation to those held by the citizens of other countries, you will develop a cross-cultural understanding of the rest of the world.

##### Mathematical (M)

Courses in mathematics provide instruction in computational strategies in at least one of the following: solving equations and inequalities, logic, statistics, algebra, trigonometry, inductive and deductive reasoning, and applying these concepts to solving problems. These courses include reasoning in abstract mathematical systems, formulating mathematical models and arguments, using mathematical models to solve problems and applying mathematical concepts effectively to real-world situations.

##### Physical (P) and Biological Sciences (B)

The physical and biological sciences provide instruction in the basic concepts, theories and terms of the scientific method. Courses focus on major scientific developments and their impacts on society and the environment. You will formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical process and living things and you will apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument.

##### Social & Behavioral Sciences (S)

The social and behavioral sciences provide instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a social and behavioral science discipline of your choice. These courses focus on the history, underlying theory and/or methodologies used in that discipline. You will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures and processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques as well as the evaluation of opinions and outcomes.

**REL 2300 INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS (SECTIONS 4347, 6795, 6798, AND 6800)**

LECTURE-Monday and Wednesday Period 2 (8:30- 9:20 pm) **FAB 103**

DISCUSSION: Friday

Christine: **4347** (Period 2) AND 013; **6800** (Period 3) MAT 113

Ved: **6795** (Period 2) AND 019; **6798** MAT 102

Caleb Simmons- Instructor

AND 009

email: simmons@ufl.edu

phone: (352) 273-2943

office hours Monday and Wednesday (9:30-10:30) or by appointment

Christine Walters- Teaching Assistant

123 Anderson Hall

c.walters@ufl.edu

office hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:30 or by appt

Ved Patel- Teaching Assistant

123 Anderson Hall

patelvr@ufl.edu

office hours: Monday 12-3 or by appt

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:**

Unfortunately, in a course of this nature we will not have ample time to become experts in all of the religious traditions of the world. Therefore, in this course we will be exploring only a few of the religions of the world focusing primarily on seven (Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) that have been determined “World Religions.” We will approach these religions from a scholarly perspective checking our subjective value opinions as much as is humanly possible. We will attempt to gain a fuller understanding of the socio-cultural context of each tradition and examine how that tradition aids its adherents in negotiating the world around them. We will not simply look at religious philosophy or “what people believe,” but we will also examine “how people act” and how their tradition influences their actions. In addition to these specifically religious studies goals, we will also aim to hone our critical academic skills through examinations and engaging discussions.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Oxtoby and Segal: *Concise Introduction to World Religions (CWR)*, Oxford University Press (ISBN 978-0-19-542207-8). You **must** read this textbook. The material for your weekly quizzes will be directly from this text.

Additional readings will be placed on the course **Sakai site** (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>) and **ARES** online Library Course Reserve. Many of these are primary sources and very long. You will not be expected to read them all in their entirety, but to acquaint yourself with different perspectives from within the traditions. These texts will be the primary material for discussions in the smaller sections on Friday. More information will be given in class.

**GRADING**

**Exams: 60% (2 x 30%)**

You will have two non-cumulative exams each worth 30% of your overall grade in the course. These will consist of term definitions, map and slide identification, and essays. There will be a study session moderated by either Christine or Ved before each exam.

**Online Quizzes: 30% (12x 3% minus two lowest scores)**

Every week you will have an online open-book open-note quiz that covers that week's readings. The questions will be multiple choice, true or false, and/or matching. These quizzes are intended to ensure that you are keeping up with the material in the course, and will be available only until Friday afternoon of the assigned reading. More details will be available in the quiz link on Sakai.

**Attendance and Participation: 10%**

We believe that you as the student will learn a great deal in this course if you take an active role in the course. This begins with attendance. Therefore, **attendance will be taken everyday** to encourage your participation in the learning process. You will be allowed up to two unexcused absences from lecture and one from your discussion section, after which one grade scale will be deducted from your final grade for each subsequent unexcused absence (e.g.- You have an "A-" your grade would drop to a "B+" after the first excessive absence. then to a "B", etc.). However, attending class will not be sufficient to receive all ten points. You **must come to class prepared and actively engage the material academically in class** to receive full credit for attendance and participation.

All absences that meet the university's requirements for an excused absence (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>) should be supported by **documentation** and **submitted to your section's TA before the absence** or as soon as possible in the case of an emergency. You will be expected to complete any assignments missed prior to the due date or in case of emergencies a make-up assignment will be given by Caleb.

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Online Quizzes 30%	100-93=A	A=4.0
Midterm Exam (Wednesday, Feb 23) 30%	92.9-90=A-	A-=3.67
Attendance and Participation 10%	89.9-87=B+	B+=3.33
Final Exam (Tuesday, April 26 @ 5:30) 30%	86.9-83=B	B=3.00
	82.9-80=B-	B-=2.67
	79.5-77=C+	C+=2.33
	76.9-73=C	C=2.00
	72.9-70=C-	C-=1.67
	69.9-67=D+	D+=1.33
	66.9-63=D	D=1.00
	62.9-60=D-	D-=0.67
	59.9-0=E	E=0.00

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (Subject to Change with prior notice)

Wednesday, January 5 — Logistics, introduction to traditions: What are World Religions?

Reading: Familiarize yourself with the syllabus: *CWR* 2-9

Friday, January 7 — Indigenous Religions

Reading: *CWR* pp 11-15, 23-46

**“What is Religion Essay” Due**

Monday, January 10 — Intro to Hinduism and Vedic religion

Reading: *CWR* pp 259-270

Wednesday, January 12 — Hindu Thought

Reading: *CWR* pp 271-285

Friday, January 14 — Hindu Scriptures

Reading: “Hindu Scriptures” on Sakai- ***Online Quiz 1 Due***

Monday, January 17 — **No Class Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Wednesday, January 19- Contemporary Hinduism

Reading: *CWR* pp 286-309

**Extra Credit Assignment #1 (Harn Museum- Hinduism) Due**

Friday, January 21— Women in Hinduism

Reading: *CWR* pp 309-312- ***Online Quiz 2 Due***

Monday, January 24 — Intro to the Śramanas and Buddhism and Life of the Buddha

Reading: *CWR* pp 377-389

Wednesday, January 26— Basic tenets of Buddhism

Reading: *CWR* pp 389-396

Friday, January 28— Buddhist Texts

Reading “Buddhist Texts” on ARES- ***Online Quiz 3 Due***

Monday, January 31— Divisions of Buddhism

Reading *CWR* pp 396-415

Wednesday, February 2 — Buddhism and the Arts

Reading *CWR* 420-424

**Extra Credit Assignment #2 (Harn Museum- Buddhism) Due**

Friday, February 4 — Buddhism and Science- ***Online Quiz 4 Due***

Reading “Buddhism and Science” <http://online.sfsu.edu/~rone/Buddhism/VerhoevenBuddhismScience.htm>

Monday, February 7— Intro to Confucianism. Confucius and his teachings. Mencius and Xunzi

Reading *CWR* pp 441-455

Wednesday, February 9 — Developments in Confucianism

Reading *CWR* pp 455-468

Friday, February 11 — Confucian Texts

Reading “Confucian Texts” on ARES- ***Online Quiz 5 Due***

Monday, February 14 — Intro to Daoism, Laozi, and Zhuangzi  
Reading *CWR* pp 468-474, 478-482

Wednesday, February 16 — Neo-Daoism  
Reading *CWR* pp 474-478, 482-486

Friday, February 18 — Daoist Texts  
Reading "Daoist Texts" on *ARES- Online Quiz 6 Due*

Monday, February 21 — Midterm Study Session

Wednesday, February 23 — **MIDTERM EXAM**

Friday, February 25- Torah  
Reading "Torah" on *ARES*

Monday, February 28 — Intro to Judaism and Biblical Background  
Reading: *CWR* 60-75

Wednesday, March 2 — Hellenistic Period and Rabbinic Judaism  
Reading: *CWR* 75-92

Friday, March 4 — Jewish Scripture  
Reading "Jewish Scriptures" on *ARES- Online Quiz 7 Due*

**NO CLASS- March 5-13 Spring Break**

Monday, March 14 — Differentiation of Judaism  
Reading *CWR* 92-101, 111-127

Wednesday, March 16 — Jewish Practice  
Reading *CWR* pp 101-111

Friday, March 18 — Zionism  
Reading "Zionism Readings" on *ARES Online Quiz 8 Due*  
**Extra Credit Assignment # 3 (Synagogue Visit) Due**

Monday, March 21 — Intro to Christianity Life of Christ  
Reading: *CWR* 131-139

Wednesday, March 23 — The Early Church  
Reading: *CWR* 139-143, 149-158

Friday, March 25 — Christian Texts  
Reading "Christian Texts" on *ARES- Online Quiz 9 Due*

Monday, March 28 — Schisms and Practice  
Reading *CWR* pp 143-149, 159-174

Wednesday, March 30 — Modern Christianity  
Reading *CWR* pp 181-192

Friday, April 1 — Wardrobes, Rings, and Vampires  
Reading "Christian Allegorical Readings" on *ARES- Online Quiz 10 Due*  
**Extra Credit Assignment #4 (Christian Music) Due**

Monday, April 4 — Intro to Islam and Life of Muhammad  
Reading *CWR* pp 200-217. 233-238

Wednesday, April 6 — Shi'ism and Sunnism and Spread of Islam  
Reading *CWR* pp 217-232

Friday, April 8 — Muslim Texts  
Reading "Muslim Texts" on *ARES- Online Quiz 11 Due*

Monday, April 11 — Modern Islam  
Reading *CWR* pp 241-253  
*Extra Credit Assignment #5 (Mosque Visit) Due*

Wednesday, April 13 — New Religious Movements  
Reading "Globalization" on *ARES* pp 561-582

Friday, April 15 — Religion and Postmodernism  
Reading "Globalization" on *ARES* pp 582-594- *Online Quiz 12 Due*

Monday, April 18 — Course Recap-  
No Reading  
*"What is Religion" Essay 2 Due*

Wednesday, April 20- Final Exam Study Session  
No Reading

Friday, April 22 — *NO CLASS- READING DAY*

Tuesday, April 26 at 5:30-7:30p.m. in FAB 103 *FINAL EXAM*

### THE FINE PRINT:

**Incompletes** will only be given under very special circumstances: when students who have finished most of the assignments satisfactorily cannot complete the final requirements due to unforeseen events. If this is the case, students must arrange for the incomplete before the end of the semester.

**Students with Disabilities.** Students requesting classroom accommodation or special consideration must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation or special consideration.

**Academic Honest.** Students and instructors are expected to comply with all aspects of the university's students rights and responsibilities, which can be found on the Dean of Student's webpage (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php#studenthonorcode>). If you feel your rights have been violated please bring it to either Caleb or Brant immediately for resolution. If your complaint is not resolved please contact the Dean of Students office in 202 Peabody Hall or by phone (352) 392-1261.

**Sexual Harassment.** UF does not tolerate sexual harassment in any form. If you feel as though you have been sexually harassed in any way please notify either Caleb, Christine, or Ved immediately for resolution. If you feel uncomfortable speaking to us or your complaint is not resolved please contact the



Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs in 155 Tigert Hall or by phone (352) 392-1265. To learn more about sexual harassment, how it can be avoided, and reporting harassment visit the Office of Student Affairs' webpage (<http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/students/sh/sexualharassment.shtml>).

**Conduct.** You are expected to uphold the university's conduct code at all time (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>).

**Requirements.** This course fulfills the requirements for the following: **Humanities (H)** — Humanities courses provide instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a humanities discipline. The courses focus on the history, theory and methodologies used within that discipline, enabling you to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

**International (N)** — International courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that constitute the culture of countries outside the United States. These courses lead you to understand how geographic location and socioeconomic factors affect these cultures. Through analysis and evaluation of your own cultural norms and values in relation to those held by the citizens of other countries, you will develop a cross-cultural understanding of the rest of the world.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- Know the history, underlying theory and methodologies used within the academic study of religion.
- Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within the academic study of religion.
- Approach issues and problems within the academic study of religion from multiple perspectives.
- Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively in forms appropriate to the academic study of religion, individually and/or in groups.
- Know the values, attitudes and norms that shape the cultural differences of peoples who live in countries other than the United States.
- Know the roles of geographic location and socioeconomic factors on the lives of citizens in other countries.
- Analyze and evaluate your cultural norms and values in relation to those held by citizens in other countries.