

SYLLABUS  
PART I  
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
REL 121S WORLD RELIGIONS  
3 CREDIT HOURS

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introduction to historical development, cultural functions and fundamental tenets of major world religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and contemporary religions. Prerequisite: ENG 091D and ENG 093D

**COURSE GOALS**

The student will:

Bloom's Level		Gen Ed Outcomes
2	1. Explain the historical development of major world religions.	1, 2
2	2. Explain the cultural functions of major world religions.	1, 2
2	3. Explain the fundamental tenets of major world religions.	1, 2
2	4. Explain and identify the religious foundations of contemporary world cultures and civilizations.	1, 2
3	5. Develop a basic awareness of the richness and fascination that lies behind the religious experience.	1
3	6. Develop a basic awareness of the total human experience as inseparable from religious life, past and present.	1

**CORE VALUES**

The Core Values are a set of principles that guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

1. Religions of Tribes and City-States
  - a) Religions of the Americas
  - b) Religions of Africa
2. Religions Arising in India
  - a) Hinduism
  - b) Buddhism
  - c) Jainism and Sikhism
3. Religions of China and Japan
  - a) Confucianism and Taoism
  - b) Shintoism
4. Religions that Influenced East and West
  - a) Ancient Religions of Iraq
  - b) Ancient Religions of Iran
5. Religions of the Family of Abraham
  - a) Judaism
  - b) Christianity
  - c) Islam
6. Contemporary Religious Trends
  - a) Baha'i
  - b) Contemporary Paganism