

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: REL 232

Credits: 3

Course Title: Religions of the World II

Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)

Introduces students to the religions of the world with attention to origin, history, and doctrine. Focuses on the development of systems of faith in various human cultures, with a concentration on the rise of the monotheistic faiths and the distinction between primal or “oral” religions and “historical” religions. Introduces the academic study of religion, issues of faith, and specific world religions. Examines the historical evolution, the fundamental doctrines and beliefs, the practices, institutions, and cultural expressions of these religious traditions. Also deals with some of the essential differences and similarities that exist among each religious tradition, and points to the uniqueness of each of them. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

REL 232 emphasizes the academic study of questions of faith, religious doctrine, and the historical and cultural connections of religious ideologies. The course introduces students to the broad spectrum of human religious inquiry and helps students to define points of similarity and distinction among various religious traditions. The course enables students to place the study of religion within an academic context and to analyze religious thinking critically by establishing historical, sociological, philosophical, and cultural connections.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

Prerequisites: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test.

Course Objectives (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate an ability to think both empathetically and critically about conflicting religious claims;
- demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of the history and culture of several major religious traditions;
- demonstrate development in oral and written communication skills through the completion of course assignments.

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Indigenous Sacred Way
- b. Zoroastrian Religion
- c. Judaism
- d. Christianity
- e. Sikhism
- f. Islam

Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year): May 17, 2007