

**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:** 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, 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. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. 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 and Co-requisites:**

**Prerequisite:** Placement in ENG 111 or placement in **Co-requisites** ENG 111 and ENF 3

**Course Objectives:**

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

- a. Demonstrate an ability to think both empathetically and critically about conflicting religious claims;
- b. Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of the history and culture of several major religious traditions;
- c. 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:** Spring, 2014