

HON 185: Religions and Worldviews Syllabus
Spring 2024
3 credit hours

Instructor Name: TBD

Instructor Contact Information: TBD

Instructor Student Drop-In Hours: TBD

Course Catalog Description: Explores major religious and non-religious worldviews by examining the history, literature, rituals, and teachings of a selection of religious traditions and worldviews, as well as influential ancient and modern critiques of religion. We will also consider the ways in which people construct worldviews, as well as the possibilities for inter-religious dialogue. LAA3-Arts&Hum-Ways of Thinking and GT Ways of Thinking

Course Description: This course offers an opportunity to think critically, deeply, and across disciplines about our religious worlds: how they are symbolically structured, how myth, ritual, and philosophical reflection function in them, how they are rooted in long historical processes, and how they influence the societies in which they are embedded. It also provides a forum to consider how people construct or (inherit) a worldview that encompasses religion. We will consider how different religious worlds relate to each other, given differing practices, deities, and beliefs, as well as how critiques, and rejections, of religion have developed. Students will learn the categories necessary to ask such questions intelligently and honestly. Students will become better able to define their own religious or non-religious worlds, and gain some knowledge of the history and methods of the professional study of religion. They will also be better equipped to analyze comparatively the "other worlds" of humanity's religious traditions through a set of comparative patterns or themes. Students who complete this course will possess a level of religious literacy appropriate to an educated citizen in a religiously plural global setting.

[Reading selections and thematic focus may vary by instructor. All changes must be approved by the Honors program.]

Important Dates: TBD

Liberal Arts Curriculum & GT Pathways

This course is a part of the Liberal Arts Curriculum at UNC and fulfills 3 credit hours of the Arts & Humanities: Ways of Thinking category. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved HON 185 for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-AH3 category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C- grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to

<http://highered.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtpathways/curriculum.html>

UNC's LAC outcomes in Arts & Humanities: Ways of Thinking are aligned with the State of Colorado's GT Pathways student learning outcomes, competencies, and content criteria for AH3. This includes CDHE competency and student learning outcomes in Critical Thinking.

LAC Ways of Thinking Learning Outcomes + GTP Competency & SLOs	Course Mapping [Assignments may vary by instructor. All changes must be approved by the Honors program.]
<p>Critical Thinking: Competency in critical thinking addresses a student's ability to analyze information and ideas from multiple perspectives and articulate an argument or an opinion or a conclusion based on their analysis.</p> <p>Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) <i>Students should be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain an Issue <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use information to describe a problem or issue and/or articulate a question related to the topic. 2. Utilize Context <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Evaluate the relevance of context when presenting a position. b. Identify assumptions. c. Analyze one's own and others' assumptions. 5. Understand Implications and Make Conclusions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish a conclusion that is tied to the range of information presented. b. Reflect on implications and consequences of stated conclusion. 	<p>Research paper – students write a 2,000-word research paper analyzing a doctrine, practice, or other expression of a religious tradition</p> <p>Exams – students write two essay exams analyzing and evaluating concepts and assigned readings from the course</p>

Content Criteria for Ways of Thinking (GT-AH3)	Course Mapping
<p>Respond analytically and critically to ways of thinking, by addressing one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Logic b. Ethics c. The different questions dealt with by leading philosophers and/or theologians and their position on those questions 	<p>Research paper – students write a 2,000-word research paper analyzing a doctrine, practice, or other expression of a religious tradition</p> <p>Exams – students write two essay exams analyzing and evaluating concepts and assigned readings from the course</p>

Other Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 1) Know the history, development, beliefs, and practices of five major religious traditions
- 2) Understand how worldviews are constructed, and understand the assumptions embedded in them.

- 3) Be able to discuss intelligently the more prominent and influential critiques of religion
- 4) Be able to compare and contrast the tenets of at least five major world religions
- 5) Be able to engage in civil and reasoned dialogue with people of different religious points of view
- 6) Be able to articulate clearly one's own worldview and to differentiate it from alternatives
- 7) Be able to appreciate the perspectives of those whose religions and worldviews differ from one's own.

Required Text/Course Materials

[The list below is one example. Reading selections may vary by instructor. All changes must be approved by the Honors program.]

Huston Smith, *The Illustrated World's Religions* [WR]

Philip Novak, *The World's Wisdom* [WW]

Readings posted on Canvas for each module [Cf. course outline below]

Assignments & Grading

[Assignments and weights may vary by instructor. All changes must be approved by the Honors program.]

Students will complete the following requirements in this course:

- 8 on-line quizzes (via Canvas) based on lectures and readings (total of 25% of grade)
- 1 written midterm examination (25% of grade)
- 1 2,000-word research paper on a doctrine, practice, or other expression of a religious tradition (25% of grade)
- 1 written final examination (25% of grade)

Grades will be computed as follows: A 100-94%; A- 90-93%; B+89-85%; B 84-80%; C+ 79-75%; C 74-70%; C- 69-65%; D 64-60%; F 59% and below.

Course Policies

Late or Missing Work

Late term papers, regardless of their merits or the circumstances of their lateness, will be penalized by one letter grade for each day of lateness. A paper submitted after midnight of the due date is considered a day late. Students are advised not to write papers at the last minute; balky printers or lost files are emergencies only for those who do not do their work in a timely manner. Work not submitted at all will, of course, receive a zero.

Examinations will ordinarily not be rescheduled for individuals. In the event of a documented emergency (n.b.: a squabble with a roommate, a disappointment in your love life, or any number of other negative human experiences, do not constitute emergencies) or a conflict in the official final exam schedule, I may, at my discretion, reschedule an examination. On-line quizzes must be done during the allotted time window; those not done in this timeframe will receive a grade of zero.

Attendance

I expect your attendance every class day, and I call the roll each class session to help me get to know your name and verify your participation for financial aid purposes. I do not, however, compute a grade for attendance, nor do I subtract points solely for lack of attendance. You are

adults, and I expect all students to attend every class session and to engage with the material therein. If you do not attend with great regularity—i.e., if you miss more than 10% of classes, you will probably not succeed in this course. Bear in mind that any topic discussed in class is fair game for examinations or quizzes, and that it is impossible to learn from class discussions if you do not participate in them.

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible to do their own academic work with integrity, without cheating, plagiarizing, or otherwise exhibiting dishonesty. Students are further expected not to aid or abet others in breaches of academic integrity. At my discretion, I will penalize a student who cheats, plagiarizes, or assists another student in such behavior with an F for the class. Students so penalized may also be liable for disciplinary sanctions by the university, which may include suspension from the university. For further information, see UNC's academic integrity policy at: http://www.unco.edu/dos/assets/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf#nameddest=SC_integrity

University Policies

Disability Resources

It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to students' inclusion or to accurate assessments of students' achievements (e.g., time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), students should communicate about these aspects with their instructor(s) and contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) to request accommodations.

Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80.

Students can learn more here: www.unco.edu/disability-resource-center

Title IX

The University of Northern Colorado is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Students who have experienced (or who know someone who has experienced) any of these incidents should know that they are not alone. UNC has staff members trained to support students to navigate campus life, to access health and counseling services, to provide academic and housing accommodations, to help with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware all UNC instructors and most staff members are required to report their awareness of sexual violence to the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC). This means that if students tell an instructor about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, the instructor must share that information with the Title IX Coordinator, Larry Loften. Larry or a trained staff member in OIEC will contact the reporting students to let them know about accommodations and support services at UNC as well as their options to pursue a process to hold accountable the person who caused the harm to them. Students who have experienced these situations are not required to speak with OIEC staff regarding the incident. Students' participation in OIEC processes are entirely voluntary.

If students do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing this information to the instructor, students can speak confidentially with the following people on campus and in the community. They can connect you with support services and help explore options now, or in the future.

Confidential Campus Resources

Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (ASAP)

Office Located: 2nd floor of Cassidy Hall

Office Phone: 970-351-1490

Web: unco.edu/asap

Hours: M-F, 9am-5pm

24 Hour Hot Line: 970-351-4040

Email: advocacy@unco.edu

UNC Counseling Center

Office Located: 2nd floor of Cassidy Hall

Office Phone: 970-351-2496

Hours: M-F, 8am-12PM, 1pm-5pm

Web: unco.edu/counseling-center

Psychological Services

Office Located: McKee Hall Room 247

Office Phone: 970-351-1645

Web: www.unco.edu/cebs/psychological-services-clinic

Hours: By Appointment

Email: ppsy.clinic@unco.edu

*Staff members at confidential campus resources are not required to automatically report incidents of sexual or relationship/dating violence or stalking to the University. There are limits to confidentiality, and before speaking with a staff member, those exceptions will be outlined.

Students who are survivors, who are concerned about someone who is a survivor, or who would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, can visit www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct. Students may also contact OIEC at 970-351-4899 or email titleix@unco.edu.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to grading consequences with regard to this course and/or university disciplinary procedures through the Dean of Students Office. More information about the academic misconduct process can be found in UNC's Student Code of Conduct (BEAR Code).

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Each instructor determines the relationship between class attendance, the objectives of the class, and students' grades. Instructors are responsible for articulating their attendance policies and their effect on grades to students. Students are responsible for knowing the attendance policy of each course. Only the instructor can approve students' absences. Students are responsible for requesting such approval. In an

effort to create inclusive learning environments, instructors should not require doctors' notes to determine whether or not to excuse an absence.

Center for Career Readiness

Come visit us at the Center for Career Readiness to talk about resume, cover letter, interviewing, career/major exploration, job/internship search, graduate school search, and everything else career.

For more information on student *resources*, or to schedule an *appointment*, visit the website: www.unco.edu/career/students or for student *events*, visit: www.unco.edu/career/events.

We are located:

Office: University Center 2nd floor

Hours: M-F, 8am-5pm

Appointments: Virtual and In-Person

Drop-Ins: Visit our website for up-to-date information

It's never too early to talk about career!

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is a complex, challenging, and fluid situation, which continues to evolve. UNC will follow applicable legal requirements and federal, state, and county public health recommendations and mandates in all decisions related to university operations. Students should review the [Coronavirus website](#) for the current academic term for the most up to date guidance. Students who fail to comply with UNC's public health requirements, such as the use of masks and social distancing, will be reminded of current policy; students who fail to correct their behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and may be referred to the Dean of Students office. As of August 12, 2021, masks are required in all indoor spaces, except for limited exceptions. Instructors who can maintain a 6 foot distance from students are exempt while engaged in instructional activity.

The safety and well-being of our Community of Bears requires each of us to be prepared to do our part to protect the health of our entire campus community, as well as our friends, families, and neighbors. It is important that all members of the university community work together to do all we can to keep our community safe.

Equity and Inclusion

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff. UNC honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and world views. People of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, sizes and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness of others' individual and intersecting identities. For information or resources, contact the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, at 970-351-1944. If students want to report an incident related to identity-based discrimination/harassment, please visit www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance.

Additionally, there are several cultural and resource centers across the campus that are equipped and designed to serve as caring and thoughtful centers for students, staff and faculty. You can find their information below:

Asian Pacific American Student Services (Cultural Center)

924 20th St
Greeley, CO 80639
(970) 351-1909

AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu

Cesar Chavez Cultural Center & DREAMer Engagement Program (Cultural Center)

1410 20th St
Greeley, CO 80639
(970) 351-2424

ChavezCenter@unco.edu

Center for Women's and Gender Equity (Resource Center) & Stryker Institute for Leadership Development

1915 10th Ave
Greeley, CO 80639
970-351-1492

cwge@unco.edu

Center for Gender and Sexuality (Resource Center)

2215 10th Ave., Campus Box 42
Greeley, CO 80631
970-353-0191

gsrc@unco.edu

Marcus Garvey Cultural Center (Cultural Center)

928 20th St., Campus Box 41
Greeley, CO 80639
(970) 351-2351

MGCC@unco.edu

Native American Services (Cultural Center)

924 20th St
Greeley, CO 80639
(970) 351-1909

AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu

Veteran's Services (Resource Center)

1815 8th Ave
Greeley, CO 80631
970-351-1403

timothy.nellett@unco.edu

Food Insecurity and Basic Needs

Knowing that food insecurity is experienced at higher rates among college students, UNC offers

assistance to students facing food insecurity through an on-campus food pantry. The Bear Pantry is located in University Center 2166A and is open for regular hours throughout the semester. Please visit www.unco.edu/bear-pantry for more information. Students who face challenges (i.e., emotional distress, grief and loss, academic concerns, basic needs insecurity, navigating university processes) and believe this may affect their academic performance may contact Student Outreach and Support (SOS), which is part of the Dean of Students Office. SOS will help connect students with appropriate referrals based upon their needs. The Dean of Students Office can be reached at dos@unco.edu or via phone at 970-351-2001.

Land Acknowledgment

The University of Northern Colorado occupies the lands in the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne, Lakota and Arapaho peoples. The University acknowledges the 48 tribes that are historically tied to the state of Colorado. Thus, the land on which UNC is situated is tied to the history and culture of our native and indigenous peoples. UNC appreciates this connection and has great respect for this land. Additionally, the University community pays its respect to Elders past, present, and future, and to those who have stewarded this land throughout the generations.

As part of the learning and reflection process please visit native-land.ca or call the Office of Equity & Inclusion at 970-351-1944.

Name in Use/Pronoun in Use/Name Change

Some students may have changed their names to better reflect their gender identity or for other reasons. The process to request that the University change the name that appears on Canvas and on the course roster is available here: www.unco.edu/registrar/name-change.aspx

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers three kinds of sessions to meet your writing needs: In-Person, Email, and Zoom Sessions. Trained Writing Center Consultants can assist you with writing assignments from any course or subject. Even if you think your writing is pretty good, it's always nice to have another reader look over your work.

To guarantee a session time, make an appointment using our online scheduling system by visiting our website (below). We also have walk-in session times available during our scheduled open hours, Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm in the Writing Center, Ross Hall 1230 as well as walk-in sessions in the library (first floor) Monday – Thursday evenings, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

If your instructor requires you to visit the Writing Center, make sure to alert your Consultant, and/or check the box on the appointment form, and we will send an email confirmation of your session to your instructor.

For more information, email the Writing Center at writingcenter@unco.edu or visit the website: www.unco.edu/writing-center.

Course Outline

[Reading selections, assignments, and schedule may vary by instructor. All changes must be approved by the Honors program.]

I. Preliminary considerations: What is a religion? What is a worldview?

Readings: WR pp. 1-16; Clifford Geertz, "Religion as a Cultural System"; Mark Koltko-Rivera, "The Psychology of Worldviews"; Rudolf Otto, *The Idea of the Holy* pp. 11-80

II. Vedic Religion and Hinduism

Readings: WR pp. 17-57; selections from WS pp. 1-48: *Rig-Veda, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita*.

III. Buddhism

Readings: WR pp. 58-97; WS selections from pp. 49-109: *Instructive Legend of the Buddha's Life, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path, Satipatthana Sutra, Metta Sutta, Heart Sutra, Diamond Sutra, Lotus Sutra*

IV. Judaism

Readings: WR pp. 179-203; WS selections from pp. 175-226: *Torah, Nevi'im, Kethuvim, Talmud*

V. Christianity

Readings: WR pp. 204-229; WS selections from pp. 227-279: New Testament, Nicene Creed, Gospel of Thomas, various later Christian writers.

VI. Islam

Readings: WR pp. 144-177; WS selections from pp. 281-332: *Qur'an*, various later writers, Malcolm X, *Letter from Mecca*

VII. Critiques of Religion, Ancient and Modern

Readings: Plato, *The Apology of Socrates*; Lucretius, *De rerum natura*, Karl Marx, (Selections); Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*; Sam Harris, *An Atheist Manifesto*.