

**University of the Incarnate Word
School of Applied Sciences
RELS 1325 Religious Quest
Course Outline**

Term and Year: Approved for Academic Year
See Instructor Tab of Blackboard for More Information

Overview of the Course:

This course will examine the ways in which human beings have responded to issues like death, tragedy, mystery, awe, and human consciousness within the framework of religion. It will provide a broad interdisciplinary introduction to the basic concepts and developments of human religiousness from a number of perspectives, including the philosophical, theological, psychological, cultural, and religious.

Description of the course:

This course explores the human response to mystery, faith, and revelation; the origin and evolution of myth, religion and its ritual expression; and the relationship of religion to theology.

Outcomes	Assessments will be a combination of the following
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess how human societies have understood the concept of God 2. Articulate the various arguments for the problem of evil 3. Assess the role reason plays in issues of faith 4. Assess the concept of morality and its role in religious traditions 	<p>Discussion boards, quizzes, papers</p>

Catalog Description:

Students examine definitions and elements of religion, explore the nature of the Sacred and human responses to the Sacred, and consider challenges to traditional religion in contemporary culture. Drawing examples from Christianity and other World Religions, students consider the roles and functions religion plays in human life and in society. This course fulfills the undergraduate UIW Core Curriculum requirement in Religious Studies.

Prerequisite: there is no prerequisite.

Introduction:

RELS 1325 is an online course with written assignments, classroom dialog, and assigned readings. Please familiarize yourself with the online classroom. The basic course information is listed here for you in this Common Course Outline. The assignments will be listed in the Weekly Lessons, and the discussions will take place in the Discussion area.

Readings (Required)

SEE THE LINKS EMBEDDED IN THE WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE (below)

Since all readings are from the Internet, they may change because of changes to their availability. Each Instructor may have additional articles to read. You are also required to read each of the Lecture Notes that are on the class website.

Student Evaluation:

Discussion Posts	30%
Quizzes	20%
Article Journal	30%
Reading Summary	20%

Discussions:

Students are encouraged to use outside materials and examples in class discussions, whether online (in online version of the class) or on-ground. Constructive class contribution includes being present, engaged, and professional. Students will be expected to participate in discussions by asking questions, sharing examples, presenting arguments, and sharing real-world applications.

Quizzes:

At the end of each section we cover (approximately every week), there will be a brief online quiz. The answers for these quizzes will come from your assigned readings, the discussions, AND the class lecture notes.

Article Journal:

Two articles can be found on the class website in the “Course Outline and Book” folder. The Article Journal is simply a synopsis of ONE of these articles. DO NOT wait until the last moment to read the articles. The material can be a little difficult, and you will probably need to read through it more than once. The assignment will be a typed, double-spaced, 12- font paper detailing what the article was about, and MUST include your own personal thoughts and ideas on the topic (agreements, disagreements, likes, dislikes, other thoughts, etc). The paper needs to be at least 4 full pages. This is a one-time assignment, and there is no need for outside research (simply use the article provided). Since this assignment is due week 3, you will submit this paper in the Week 3 folder in the assessments file.

Reading Summary:

The Reading Summary is simply a synopsis of an article from a magazine, newspaper, or the Internet, that is current, not older than two months, and reflects one of the topics covered in this course. The synopsis must be a typed, double-spaced, 12-font paper detailing what the reading was about, summarizing the points made in the article, and MUST include your own personal thoughts and ideas on the topic (agreements, disagreements, likes, dislikes, other views, etc). The paper needs to be at least 3 full pages. This is a one-time assignment. Since this assignment is due week 7, you will submit this paper in the Week 7 folder in the assessment folder.

Late Work Policy: Assignments are expected to be completed by stated due date. A 25% penalty will be deducted from the assignment grade for all late papers. Given that discussion questions are “real time” no late discussion board posts will be accepted.

Academic Honesty:

The UIW Student Handbook states, “Students are expected to pursue and maintain truth, honesty, and personal integrity in their academic work. Academic dishonesty, in any form, constitutes a serious threat to the freedoms that define academic community. The following definitions and guidelines have therefore been established to secure the maintenance of academic integrity at Incarnate Word. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

1. Cheating on tests, exams, or other class or laboratory work
2. Involvement in plagiarism
3. Counterfeit work
4. Falsification of academic records
5. Unauthorized reuse of work
6. Theft
7. Collusion
8. Facilitating academic dishonesty
9. Taking information from the Internet and plagiarizing, or not properly citing such sources

Class Schedule and Assignments

Readings you should do this week, in addition to any other articles requested by your Instructor.

WEEK ONE:

Introduction & background/ the nature of faith “Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy”
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/faith/>

WEEK TWO:

Attributes of God “The Attributes of God” by Philip Pecorino, 2011.
http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/PHIL_of_RELIGION_TEXT/CHAPTER_1_OVERVIEW/Attributes_of_God.htm

WEEK THREE:

The Problem of Evil “The Evidential Problem of Evil” from the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/evil-evi/>

Problem of Evil (Responses) <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/sanjacinto-philosophy/chapter/problem-of-evil-responses/>

Article Journal Due

WEEK FOUR:

Morality and Religion “Morality and Religion: A Psychological Perspective” by Anca Mustea, Oana Negru, and Adriana Opre from *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies*, 2011.
<http://jsri.ro/ojs/index.php/jsri/article/view/24> (click on the PDF link to open the article)

WEEK FIVE:

Sacred Texts “The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart” by Peter Gomes, chapter 1
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/longterm/books/chap1/goodbook.htm>

WEEK SIX:

Faith and Reason “Metaphysical Mistake” by Karen Armstrong, The Guardian, 2009.
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2009/jul/12/religion-christianity-belief-science>

WEEK SEVEN:

Life After Death “Life After Death” by Steve Stewart-Williams in “Philosophy Now” 2017
https://philosophynow.org/issues/39/Life_After_Death

Reading Summary Due

WEEK EIGHT:

Religions in the Future “Will religion ever disappear?” by Rachel Nuwer, The BBC Online, December 2014.
<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141219-will-religion-ever-disappear>

Grading Scale:

A	93 – 100
A-	90 -92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	70 – 76
C-	There is no C- grade at UIW
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 62
D-	60 – 62
F	Less than 60

“A” and “A-” indicate a superior grasp of the subject matter of the course, initiative and originality in attacking problems, and ability to relate knowledge to new situations.

“B+”, “B”, and “B-” indicate better than average grasp of the subject matter of the course and ability to apply principles with intelligence.

“C+” and “C” indicate an acceptable grasp of the essentials of the course. Most folks fall in this region, or they should!

“D+”, “D”, and “D-” indicate less than average performance in the course. The course must be repeated for Business majors.

“F” indicates failure to master the minimum essentials of the course. The course must be repeated.

Class Syllabus Statement regarding Disability and Title IX Disability Accommodations:

Class Syllabus Statement regarding Disability and Title IX

Disability Accommodations:

The University of the Incarnate Word is committed to providing a supportive, challenging, diverse and integrated environment for all students. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – Subpart E, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title III of the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), the University ensures accessibility to its programs, services and activities for qualified students with documented disabilities. To qualify for services, the student must provide Student Disability Services with the appropriate documentation of his or her disability at the time services and/or accommodations are requested.

Pregnancy Accommodations:

Under the Department of Education’s (DOE) regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or pregnancy related conditions.

To request reasonable accommodations for disability, temporary disability (e.g., injury, surgery) or pregnancy, please contact:

Student Disability Services 4301 Broadway CPO 295
Administration Building – Suite 51 San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 829-3997
(210) 283-6329
www.uiw.edu/sds

Title IX Information:

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. As a part of our mission UIW is committed to provide an environment that welcomes all students. UIW does not tolerate sex discrimination of any kind. UIW is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline for violations of the University’s relevant policies.

All Employees are considered Mandatory Reporters, which means that they are required to report possible violations of Title IX or the UIW Sexual Misconduct Policy to the Director of Title IX. As a UIW faculty member, I am a Mandatory Reporter and must report any Title IX related incidents that I become aware of or witness. This includes but is not limited to incidents that are disclosed in writing, discussion, one-on-one, or that I may overhear. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit uiw.edu/TitleIX or contact the Director of Title IX at:

Alexandria Salas Administration Building, Room 444 210.283.6977

ansalas@uiwtx.edu

Alternative Instructional Equivalent

Shown below is a class matrix to help you figure out how much time you should be spending on various assignments each week (this includes reading time, quiz time, discussion questions, etc).

Class Meeting Matrix includes the topics, readings, and/or assignments. You will notice a number in parenthesis. This is the Alternative Learning Equivalencies for this course. It is an expectation for the minimum amount of time (hours) you will spend on each topic. Its primary purpose is for accreditation.

Week	Alternative Instructional Equivalent (AIE) for Activity	Estimated Hours
#1	Lecture Notes Review (1.5) Assigned readings (2). Take part in Week One Introductions (2.5). Quiz	6
#2	Quiz Assigned readings (3.5). Take part in Week Two General Discussion (2.5).	6
#3	Article Journal Due (1.5). Assigned readings (2). Take part in Week Three General Discussion (2.5). Quiz	6
#4	Quiz Assigned readings (3.5). Take part in Week Four General Discussion (2.5).	6

#5	Assigned readings(3.5). Take part in Week Five General Discussion (2.5). Quiz	6
#6	Quiz Assigned readings (3.5). Take part in Week Six General Discussion (2.5).	6
#7	Quiz Assigned Readings Reading Summary Due (2). Take part in Week Seven General Discussion (2.5).	6
#8	Quiz Assigned readings (3.5). Take part in Week Eight General Discussion (2.5).	6

