

**Canterbury High School**  
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board  
**Social Science Department**  
Semester 1 – 2010/2011 Course Outline

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Course Title: World Religions  
Course Code: HRT3M  
Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 11  
Credit Value: 1

Teacher: Mr. Defalco

**Course Overview** 110 hours

This course will examine the development of religion throughout history in order to discover what others believe, how they live, and to appreciate their own unique heritage. Students will learn about the teachings and traditions of a variety of religions, the connections between religion and the development of civilizations, the place and function of religion in human experience, and the influence of a broad range of religions on contemporary society. This course also introduces students to skills used in researching and investigating world religions.

**Note:** Religious beliefs are an integral part of a person's identity. It is therefore expected that all members of the class will display respect for the beliefs, opinions and viewpoints of others.

**Strands: Course Expectations**

**Religious Beliefs**

- summarize the major historical influences on and events in the development of various religions;
- analyse the similarities and differences between the central beliefs of various religions;
- analyse and describe the connection between the human experience and sacred writings and oral teachings;
- demonstrate how practice, ritual, and symbolism are external representations of the beliefs and principles of religion

**Social Structures**

- identify common problems and questions associated with the search for spiritual meaning;
- specify the responses of some religions to these common problems and questions;
- demonstrate an understanding of the concept of the supernatural in various belief systems (e.g., those of Native peoples);
- describe the role of faith in systems of belief;
- summarize the relationship religious symbolism has to these systems of belief in various religions;
- identify significant sacred writings and/or oral teachings from various religions;
- explore the origins and development of sacred writings;
- compare and contrast the roles sacred writings and oral teachings have in various religions;
- identify key principles from relevant passages of sacred writings and oral teachings in various religions;
- examine the influence of sacred writings and oral teachings from various religions on life in modern society.

**Religion and the Human Experience**

- identify the function of religion in human experience;
- demonstrate an ability to recognize prejudices associated with, and misconceptions about, various religions, beliefs, and traditions;
- analyse the significance of religion or other belief systems in the lives of various historical figures;
- speculate on the present and future roles of religion.

## **Research and Inquiry Skills**

- use appropriate theories and analyses of religion in preparing an independent study;
- distinguish between fact and opinion, belief and religion, and theory and practice, as they apply to the study of religion;
- identify the implications of different research methodologies in the study of religion;
- employ at least one of the following research methodologies in an independent study: opinion survey, demographic study, in-depth interview, database search, exploration of primary sources;
- communicate the results of these inquiries effectively;
- demonstrate effective collaborative group skills.

## **Units of Study**

Unit 1	The Foundations of Religion
Unit 2	The Origin of Religion
Unit 3	The Idea of Deity
Unit 4	Eastern Religions
Unit 5	Western Religions

## **Assessment and Evaluation Strategies**

Written Tests	Peer Review/Editing	Rubrics
Written assignments	Group presentation	Quizzes
Seminar presentation	Visual art representations	Final Exam
Summative Assignment	Individual research project/essay	

## **Evaluation Summary**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Knowledge/Understanding	21 %
Thinking/Inquiry	21 %
Communication	14 %
Application	14 %
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Summative assignment (December/January)	10 %
Final exam ( <i>during formal examination period in January</i> )	20 %

## **References**

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/)

## **Student Resources / Texts**

**Exploring world Religions: The Canadian Perspective** The textbook will be collected at the end of the course. Damaged or lost texts will be the responsibility of the student. The current replacement cost of the book is \$70.