

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

Course Prefix and Number: REL 231

Credits: 3

Course Title: Religions of the World

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 Eastern 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. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: To provide a humanities elective which will enhance students' reading, writing, and thinking skills and view of other world religions in order to enhance their understanding of the world.

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:

1. Understand Eastern ways of thinking in the context of major Eastern religions;
2. Understand the commonalities and differences between major Eastern religions;
3. Enhance self growth, broaden perspectives and evaluate one's own beliefs.

Major Topics to be Included:

1. Hinduism
2. Jainism
3. Buddhism
4. Taoism
5. Confucianism
6. Zen Shinto
7. Shinto

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Spring, 2014