

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

Course Prefix and Number: REL 233

Credits: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Islam

Course Description: Studies Islam in its historical, religious, and political dimensions and assists in the understanding of its contemporary vitality and attraction as a faith, a culture, and a way of life. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: REL 233 serves as an introductory course to the religion of Islam. By providing a historical, cultural, and theological overview of Islam, REL 233 positions Islam within the context of the three great monotheistic faiths, explores its connections to the Abrahamic traditions of Judaism and Christianity, and examines the theological philosophies that distinguish this religion.

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. Understand the historical origins and growth of Islam.
- b. Understand the fundamental theological tenets of Islam.
- c. Identify and appreciate primary elements of Islamic art and culture.
- d. Identify and understand the differences in Islamic practice in various communities.

Major Topics to be Included:

- a. Islamic history
- b. Islamic cultural traditions
- c. Issues of religious practice
- d. Central theological tenets
- e. Introduction to the Qur'an

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Spring, 2014