COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: HIST 1650: History of Religion

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College Level Reading and Writing
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 2/Critical Thinking, Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Goal 8/Global Perspectives

This course traces the origins and the development of the belief systems, personalities and historical events of the world's great religions as well as some pre-historical and lesser known religions. It will also offer a comparative analysis of the fundamental aspects of the religions covered. However, the emphasis of the course will be on the historical and philosophical, not theological aspects of these religions.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): October, 2012

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Introduction
   a) Elements of Religion
   b) Pre-historical Religion
2. Local Religions
   a) Native American
   b) African
   c) Greek-Roman
3. Eastern Religions
   a) Hinduism
   b) Buddhism
   c) Taoism
4. Western Religions
   a) Judaism
   b) Christianity
   c) Islam

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
Better appreciate and understand the diversity and complexities of the religion of the world. This in turn should contribute to a broader worldview and a fuller perspective of the historical and contemporary issues surrounding this topic.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: The student will be able to:
1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued. . .
Goal 8/Global Perspectives: The student will be able to:
1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements, which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
4. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizen’s share for their common global future.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
1. Quizzes
2. Exams
3. Class Participation

G. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S) ADDRESSSED:
☐ Communication ☐ Civic Responsibility
☒ Critical Thinking ☐ Personal/Professional Accountability
☒ Global Awareness/Diversity ☐ Aesthetic Response

H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None