



NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Northeast Iowa Community College provides in-demand education and training focused on improving lives, driving business success and advancing community vitality.

REL 105 94101 Intro to Religion

Fall 2021

Delivery Method:

- Online

Meet Days/Times/Location:

- Online; ONL

Start and End Dates:

- 8/24/2021 - 12/13/2021

Academic Department: Liberal Arts, Science and Business

Required Materials

The Sacred Quest

An Invitation to the Study of Religion

ISBN: 13: 978-0-205-19131-4

Authors: Lawrence S. Cunningham and John Kelsey

Publisher: Pearson

Publication Date: 2013

Edition: Sixth Edition

Siddhartha

ISBN: 1-57062-721-5

Authors: Hermann Hesse

Publisher: Shambhala Publications

Publication Date: 2000

The Epic of Gilgamesh

ISBN: 0-14-044100-x

Authors: English version with an introduction by N.K. Sandars

Publisher: Penguin Books

Publication Date: 1972

Night

ISBN: 978-0-374-50001-6

Authors: Elie Wiesel, Translated by Marion Wiesel

Publisher: Hill and Wang

Publication Date: 2006

Course Information

Course Description: This course is a topical introduction to the study of religion and explores the human search for the Sacred, Holy, or Ultimate. Through descriptions and analysis of religious expression common to all faith traditions, students will develop an understanding of religion using examples from different religious traditions as well as from literature and philosophy.

Major Course Objective:

Students will summarize the origins and development of religion(s), including conceptual, functional, performative, and social dimensions of religious traditions.

Primary Common Learning Outcome Assessed: Diversity

Educational Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to define the term "religion."
- Students will be able to summarize the origins of religion(s).
- Students will be able to discuss conceptual dimensions of religion.
- Students will be able to discuss functional and performative dimensions of religion.
- Students will be able to identify social dimensions of religious communities.

Grading Procedures and Scale

Grading Procedures: Students may access their grades by clicking on "Grades." The instructor will make a reasonable effort to post grades quickly. A response of 24 to 48 hours after submission is the goal. Three-day-week-ends, holidays, school closings, and the like are not part of the 24 to 48 hour goal. There may be occasions when the goal is not met. Numerical scores are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. Final grades are based on the total accumulation of points. The instructor reserves the right to add points to final scores.

Grade	Grading Scale by Percent of Total Points <i>Ex. (94 - 100%)</i>	Grading Scale by Points <i>Ex. (940 - 1000+)</i>
A	100 - 93%	625 - 581
A-	92 - 90%	580 - 563
B+	89 - 87%	562 - 544
B	86 - 83%	543 - 519
B-	82 - 80%	518 - 500
C+	79 - 77%	499 - 481
C	76 - 73%	480 - 456
C- (or P)	72 - 70%	455 - 438
D+	69 - 67%	437 - 419
D	66 - 63%	418 - 394
D-	62 - 60%	393 - 375
F (or NP)	59 - 00%	374 - 000

	# of Assignments	Points / Percentage
Chapter homework	22	145
Daily Quizzes		
Test	15	480

Total Points possible	625
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Course Calendar

The course calendar is a guide for activities and subject to change at faculty discretion.

All assignments are mapped to one or more Common Learning Outcome (CLOs) and one or more Program Learning Outcome (PLOs), and/or one or more Educational Learning Outcome (ELOs).

Assignment mapping is identified by the respective number and letter associated with each, followed by the total points possible for that assignment.

Common Learning Outcomes (1, 2, 3, or 4): 1) Think Critically 2) Communicate Effectively 3) Apply Knowledge and Skills for Life 4) Value Self and Others.

Program Learning Outcomes (A, B, C, or D): A) Students will demonstrate competence in problem-solving, logical thinking, and the application of mathematical processes B) Students will understand the methods and models by which the social sciences study individuals, cultures, and societies C) Students will demonstrate an understanding of diverse cultures, historical viewpoints, and global perspectives D) Students will locate, evaluate, and responsibly use and share information.

Educational Learning Outcomes (E): See above "Educational Learning Outcomes"

Learning Module 1: Tuesday, August 24 - Thursday, September 2: Lecture 1; Textbook - Table of Contents - Introduction, and Glossary, pages v - 10, 147 - 151; Weekly Discussion 1 - 4/C/5pts; Extra Credit 1) Introduction Exercise - 4/C/1pt 2) Video - *Wiltshire Islamic Center: Islam* - 4/C/E/3pts 3) Phenomenological Methodology - 1/B/E/2pts.

Learning Module 2: Tuesday, August 31 - Friday, September 10: Lecture 2; Textbook - Chapter 1, pages 11 - 24; Weekly Discussion 2 - 1/B/E/5pts; In-Class Project #1 - 4/C/E/5pts; TEXT QUIZ 1 - 1/B/10pts; Extra Credit - Video - *Lao Tzu, and Wu Wei* (on Daoism) - 4/C/E/3pts.

Learning Module 3: Wednesday, September 8 - Friday, September 17: Lecture 3; Textbook - Chapter 2, pages 25 - 36; Weekly Discussion 3 - 4/C/E/5pts; In-Class Project #2 - 1/C/5pts; TEXT QUIZ 2 - 1/C/10pts; Extra Credit - Ernest Hemingway, "The Bombardment at Fossalta" - 1/B/E/3pts.

Learning Module 4: Wednesday, September 15 - Friday, September 24: Lecture 4; Textbook - Chapter 3, pages 37 - 54; Weekly Discussion 4 - your response to the *Siddhartha* questions - 3/C/E/5pts; *Siddhartha* Quiz - 1/C/30pts; TEXT QUIZ 3 - 1/C/10pts; Extra Credit - Video - *The History of Hindu India* - 4/C/E/3pts.

Learning Module 5: Wednesday, September 22 - Friday, October 1: Lecture 5; Weekly Discussion 5 - 1/B/E/5pts; Extra Credit - Video - *What is Judaism?* - 4/C/E/3pts; **Exam 1** - 1/B,C/100pts.

Learning Module 6: Wednesday, September 29 - Friday, October 8: Lecture 6; Textbook - Chapter 4, pages 55 - 70; Weekly Discussion 6 - 1/B/E/5pts; In-Class Project #3 - 1/B/5pts; Extra Credit - "Joseph Campbell and the Persistence of Myth" - 1/C/E/2pts.

Learning Module 7: Wednesday, October 6 - Friday, October 15: Lecture 7; Weekly Discussion 7 - 4/C/E/5pts; In-class Project #4 - 4/C/E/5pts; TEXT QUIZ 4 - 1/B/10pts; Extra Credit - "The Language of Art" - 1/C/2pts.

Learning Module 8: Wednesday, October 13 – Saturday, October 23: Lecture 8; Textbook - Chapter 5, pages 71 - 84; Weekly Discussion 8 – 3/C/E/5pts; TEXT QUIZ 5 – 1/C/10pts; Extra Credit: 1) Essay: "Hindu Life Cycle Rites" – 4/C/E/3pts 2) Mary Parker, "Taking the Bible at Face Value" – 3/B/E/3pts.

Learning Module 9: Thursday, October 21 - Saturday, October 30: Lecture 9; Textbook - Chapter 6, pages 85 - 100; Weekly Discussion 9 - your response to the *Epic of Gilgamesh* questions – 4/C/E/5pts; *Epic of Gilgamesh* Quiz – 1/C/30pts; TEXT QUIZ 6 – 10pts; Extra Credit: 1) Questions based on chapter 6 of *The Sacred Quest* – 1/B/E/4pts 2) Program Learning Outcome Assessment Quiz - 1/C/5pts.

Learning Module 10: Thursday, October 28 – Saturday, November 6: Lecture 10; Weekly Discussion 10 – 4/C/5pts; Extra Credit: Questions based on chapter 6 of *The Sacred Quest* – 3/C/2pts; **Exam 2** – 1/B,C/100pts.

Learning Module 11: Thursday, November 4 – Saturday, November 13: Lecture 11; Textbook: Chapter 7, pages 101 - 116; Weekly Discussion 11 – 4/C/E/5pts; In-class Project #5 – 4/B/5pts; Extra Credit: "The Navajo and the Problem of Evil" – 4/C/E/2pts.

Learning Module 12: Thursday, November 11 – Saturday, November 20: Lecture 12; Weekly Discussion 12 – 1/B/E/5pts; TEXT QUIZ 7 – 1/C/10pts; In-class Project #6 – 3/C/5pts; Extra Credit: "Black Elk Speaks" – 4/C/E/3pts.

Learning Module 13: Thursday, November 18 – Tuesday, November 30: Lecture 13; Textbook: Chapter 8, pages 117 - 132; Weekly Discussion 13 – your response to the *Night* questions – 4/C/5pts; *Night* Quiz – 1/C/30pts; TEXT QUIZ 8 – 1/C/10pts; Extra Credit: Video: *The Perils of Indifference* (Elie Wiesel) – 4/C/E/3pts.

Learning Module 14: Sunday, November 28 – Tuesday, December 7: Lecture 14; Textbook: Chapter 9, pages 133 - 146; Weekly Discussion 14 – 4/C/E/5pts; TEXT QUIZ 9 – 1/C/10pts; Summary of Observation Paper (posted in Discussion Board) – 2/C/5pts; Observation Paper (Common Learning Outcome Assessment) due – 1, 2, 3, 4/D/35pts; Extra Credit: Video: *Adam Rutherford on Evolution and Creationism* – 1/B/E/3pts.

Learning Module 15: Sunday, December 5 – Tuesday, December 14: Lecture 15; Weekly Discussion 15 – 3/C/E/5pts; Extra Credit: 1) "Path of Salvation/Liberation" – 4/C/3pts; 2) Summative Assessment Quiz – 1/C/5pts; **Exam 3** – 1/B, C, D/100pts.

Student Course Feedback

Prior to course completion you will receive an email providing a link to share your feedback. You are EXPECTED to complete the feedback form for each class.

Assessment

Northeast Iowa Community College is an institution dedicated to continuous instructional improvement as part of our assessment efforts. It is necessary for us to collect and analyze course level data. Data drawn from student work for the purposes of institutional assessment will be posted in aggregate and will not identify individual students. Your continued support in our ongoing effort to provide quality instructional services at NICC is appreciated.

College Policies

Attendance/Academic Engagement

(See College Handbook for more details) Regular attendance is expected. A strong relationship exists between success in college and class attendance. Absence in class interferes with the learning process and may lead to academic failure. Students should confer with the instructor immediately following an absence. When there is advance knowledge of an absence, students should discuss this with the instructor prior to the absence.

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the commitment to and demonstration of honesty, ethics, and taking personal responsibility for your work in an academic setting. Academic integrity includes honesty, fairness, respect and responsibility. Academic integrity requires student's work to be the product of their own thought and effort, and to ensure that the intellectual contribution of others is properly documented.

Academic integrity applies to all academic activities, including, but not limited to, classwork, labs, clinical field, practicum or co-op assignments. Examples of violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, lying, falsifying data, and aiding dishonesty. Violations of academic integrity are addressed according to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), and sanctions may include, but not be limited to, warnings (either verbal or written), grade reduction for an assignment, project or test, or a failing grade for the course. Sanctions for violations of academic integrity for a course shall be determined by the faculty member for the course. Pursuant to the Student Conduct Code, egregious or repeated violations of the academic integrity policy may result in the suspension or expulsion from a class or from the College, as determined by the College.

Class Continuation during Campus or Center Closing

Instructional continuity is critical to the College mission and to your success in this class. As such, should a campus or center close due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, please check your Brightspace class for specific instructions and expectations from your instructor due to the campus closure.

Classes will not be canceled, and students will be expected to continue to engage in this class remotely until such a time as classes can return to normal.

For notification on campus closures, please refer to the following:

<https://www.nicc.edu/about/consumer-information/emergency-response-and-procedure/>

Campus Emergencies

In the event of a campus emergency, an alarm will sound or an appropriate announcement will be made. An emergency response guide, building evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas are posted in each room. Safety drills are held on a regular basis. For more information, visit campus emergencies in the college catalog.

Course Section Policies

Absence/Illness

See Makeup Testing

Academic Integrity Violations

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any course at NICC. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are examples of such dishonesty and are subject to review and possible sanctions as outlined in the NICC Student Conduct Code. For a detailed explanation of plagiarism, please visit the Plagiarism Lib Guide at <https://library.nicc.edu/citingsources>. If you have questions about plagiarism you can also contact the instructor. Academic dishonesty is both immoral and unnecessary. Students caught cheating on exams, quizzes, etc. will suffer the consequences of their actions i.e. no points for the quiz, exam, paper, etc. on which the cheating took place. Further, the student who aids or assists another student to cheat will also receive zero points for the assignment or quiz involved. Exams and quizzes are NOT open-book and notes or note cards are NOT allowed during a quiz or exam.

Late Work

Assignments not submitted during the time allotted for each Learning Module are late and will not be accepted. Exams and quizzes will be withdrawn after the scheduled posting of the Learning Module. (See "Makeup Testing" below.) The instructor strongly advises students to work on and submit assignments soon after the module is available in order to have some "wiggle room;" this will allow for "down time" when systems are not working perfectly.

Missing Assignments

See "Late Work" and Makeup Testing

Makeup Testing

The purpose of the make-up policy is to allow for a few exceptional circumstances in an even-handed fair way. Making -up exams, quizzes, extra-credit, and assignments, or not losing points related to the paper, may be possible if the absence is due to one or more of the following causes: 1) official NICC function or official school closing 2) military obligations or unavoidable citizenship duties, e.g. jury duty 3) illness or scheduled health care if there is a note from the attending health care provider (no note, no make-up) 4) death of a family member 5) the direction or discretion of an NICC administrator, counselor, or the Coordinator of Disabilities services.

Not acceptable excuses include, "my computer crashed," my car broke down," "my baby-sitter didn't show up," "I had to work," "I didn't feel well," "I was in court," "I was on vacation," etc. Please do not even ask to be an exception to these policies. Contact me about arranging for making up quizzes, exams, and assignments.

Use of Technology

Cell Phone/Text Messaging Usage

Does not apply but if there are questions contact the instructor.

Laptop Use

Students may use a laptop to access the course, submit assignments, etc. If there are questions contact the instructor.

Recording

Does not apply but if there are questions contact the instructor.

Classroom Conduct

As a student in this course (and at this College) you are expected to maintain a high degree of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class; and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom in which the rights, dignity, worth, and freedom of all members of the class are respected. Please refer to the [College Catalog](#) for detailed information on the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Additional Information

Learning Center

The NICC Learning Centers provide tutoring assistance free of charge to any student in person Monday through Friday or virtually online with our online tutoring service 24/7 with [Upswing](#). Students are encouraged to utilize the Learning Centers in Calmar, Peosta or Dubuque.

Access

Take advantage of the *ReadSpeaker Listen Button* to enhance understanding and comprehension of the materials in this and any syllabus within the content area. All of the materials posted in the content area of NICC Brightspace classrooms have a *Listen Button* to have the text highlighted and read for you. Listening to text read aloud is shown to improve reading comprehension.

www.nicc.edu/readspeaker

ReadSpeaker for Brightspace by D2L



Course Copyright

All course materials students receive or to which students have online access are protected by copyright laws. Students may use course materials and make copies for their own use as needed, but unauthorized distribution and/or uploading of materials without the instructor's express written permission is strictly prohibited. Students who engage in the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials may be held in violation of the College's Code of Conduct, and/or liable under Federal and State laws.

Netiquette

The term "Netiquette" refers to the etiquette guidelines for electronic communications, such as e-mail and bulletin board postings. Netiquette covers not only rules to maintain civility in discussions, but also special guidelines unique to the electronic nature of forum messages.

Accommodation Policy

In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act, NICC ensures the accessibility of its programs, classes, and services to students with disabilities. For any questions or to apply for disability services please contact the Accessibility Services Office to set up an appointment, or visit the Accessibility Services website at: <https://www.nicc.edu/academic-support/disability-services/accommodations/> for additional information. Any student eligible for and needing academic accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with their instructor.

Sally Mallam, M.S.

Director of Accessibility Services

844.642.2338 ext. 1258

mallams@nicc.edu

Statement of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of Northeast Iowa Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age (employment), sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by federal and state civil rights regulations. If you have questions, concerns or to read the full policy at: <https://www.nicc.edu/aboutnicc/nondiscriminationpolicy/>.

Title IX: Confidentiality and Responsible Employee Statement

Northeast Iowa Community College faculty are committed to helping create a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. The College strongly encourages all members of the community to take action, seek support and report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, I am required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact one of NICC's Counselors (Calmar Campus 844.642.2338, ext. 1378 / Peosta Campus 844.642.2338, ext. 2215). For more information about reporting options and resources visit [Sexual Respect and Title IX](#).

Disclaimer

This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check the Learning Management System (Currently Brightspace) for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted by your instructor or listed in the course announcements or through NICC email.

Prerequisites/Videos/Assignments and Points

Prerequisites: In order to be successful in this course you will need: 1) internet access using a supported web browser such as Google Chrome 2) knowledge of how to use the Internet and e-mail 3) basic knowledge of a word processor 4) An alternate plan for responding to "computer emergencies" that will arise. For example, access to the Internet at a public library or a friend's house will be useful; "I had computer problems" does not excuse late work. 5) self-discipline, honesty, and a strong commitment to the course.

Videos: Watching and responding to videos is an important part of the course. They are viewed on-line and accessed by 1) clicking on the video link located within each Learning Module or 2) using the "Video Catalog" found in "Content." Many of the videos are in AVON and may require you to provide your NICC username and password or your fourteen-digit student identification number located on the back of your student identification badge. The video will begin after you enter the required information. Every video is accompanied by discussion questions; respond to the video discussion questions and submit your work. It's useful to have a hard-copy of the questions in front of you and take a few notes while watching the video.

Assignments: There will be three exams each worth 100 points. Exams will be based on material from the text, assigned readings, lectures, discussion, films and any other material presented in the course. Approximately sixty minutes are allowed for the exams. The final exam will not be comprehensive but cover only the material since the previous exam. Test and quiz format may be a combination of multiple choice questions, essay questions, identification, and short answer questions.

There will be nine "text quizzes," one for each chapter of the Sacred Quest. Each is worth 10 points (five multiple choice questions, $2 \times 5 = 10$). Text quizzes are based solely on material from the textbook, The Sacred Quest.

There will be six "in-class projects" each worth five points (30 points total). The projects consist of a half page (15 - 16 lines) written response to questions related to a chapter in the textbook or questions provided by the instructor.

There will be an "Observation Paper" worth 40 points. For details see the information found in "Content" in "Observation Paper."

There will be one quiz each on The Epic of Gilgamesh, Siddhartha, and Night. Each quiz is worth 30 points (fifteen multiple choice questions, two points each, $2 \times 15 = 30$). There will also be class discussion of these works.

Finally, participation in discussions is an important part of the course. Each week at least one original posting (or perhaps response), worth five points (75 total), must be posted in the designated area.

Prerequisites/Videos/Assignments/Grading

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