

## Scientific Religious Studies

Course # HUSS 1203

Credits 3

**Pre-requisites and Co-requisites: None**

### Course Description

This course explores the origin, doctrine, beliefs, and practices of the selected world religions. Its lessons consist of an introduction to religion and the academic study of religion. Religions are taught by considering their historical and geographical origin. Students study major teachings and devotional practices including views of the absolute, ceremonial rituals, sacred experiences, founding, and sustaining stories. The course seeks to develop and promote an understanding of how global religious traditions reflect the social contexts in which they emerged, and in turn how the traditions affect and transform those societies as well. Throughout the course, students are challenged to think and write with sophistication, intelligence, and critical insight, and analyze primary and secondary sources about major religious traditions. The course has an underlying expectation of helping students to articulate and defend a point of view or thesis on matters of significance or controversy. Scientific study of religion prompts students to question the various aspects of doctrines, and beliefs, and at the same time appreciate the plurality of meaning and interpretations that believing community attach to their religion.

### Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Describe the nature and diversity of world religions from a historical perspective.
- Assess various theories, concepts, and materials (e.g., written texts, oral reports, archaeological data) central to the academic study of religion.
- Describe how world religions form in their geographic, social, and historical contexts.

### Course Assessments and Grading

Item	Weight
Contributions	15%
Quizzes	45%
Presentations	15 %

Item	Weight
Unseen Exam	25%