REL 101 – Introduction to Religion
Humanities Department

Catalog Course Description: This course provides a study of religion, the nature of religious belief and practice.

Prerequisite(s): RDG 100 or ESL 100 and ENG 100 or ESL 110
Credit Hours: 3

Departmental Website: [http://www.midlandstech.edu/learn/academics/academic-departments/humanities-department](http://www.midlandstech.edu/learn/academics/academic-departments/humanities-department)
D2L Brightspace Login Page: [https://elearn.midlandstech.edu/d2l/login](https://elearn.midlandstech.edu/d2l/login)

Departmental Assistant: Ms. Lisa Cheeks (cheeksl@midlandstech.edu)
Department Chair: Ms. Elena Martínez-Vidal (vidale@midlandstech.edu)


General Education Core Competency Statement: REL 101 addresses the humanities component of the general education core, which states: “Graduates should understand the diversity of our cultural heritage and the effects of artistic or philosophical influences.”

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:
1. Use religious concepts in reasoning about values.
2. Evaluate religious ideas about the meaning of life.
3. Demonstrate critical and systematic thinking about religious questions through the appropriate use of evidence, reasons, inference, and questioning.
4. Translate historically-conditioned ideas and concepts into the present context.

Upon successful completion of this particular course, all students should also be able to:
1. Articulate some basic questions of religious experience, including human nature, destiny, God, faith, and ethics.
2. Compare and contrast some traditional Western and Eastern approaches to religious understanding and commitment.
3. Describe contemporary non-transcendent models for understanding religious experience.
4. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and systematically about important religious/ethical ideas and materials.
5. Demonstrate effective communication skills.

Course Outcomes and Competencies:

**Intended Course Outcome #1:** Students will understand the diversity of our cultural heritage and the effects of artistic or philosophical influences as demonstrated through the study of religion and the nature of religious belief and practice.
Course Competency (Performance Measure): Students will demonstrate their understanding of diversity of our cultural heritage and the effects of artistic or philosophical by using their knowledge gained through the learning objectives of the course.

Measurement Instrument: Students will complete a set examination questions prepared by faculty based on the course learning objectives developed by faculty.

Course Attendance: In the event of circumstances beyond one’s control, such as illness, the student is allowed to miss no more than twice the number of weekly class meetings or ______. Exceeding the maximum allowed absences in this course means that the student can receive NO CREDIT for the course, and the instructor will assign the student a grade of W or WF.

On Campus Course Attendance: Each student is expected to attend ALL classes and is responsible for class work, homework, lecture notes, and reading assignments, whether present or absent.

ABSENCE - Failure to be present for a scheduled meeting of the class
ABSENCE - Arriving for the class MORE than ten (10) minutes after the scheduled time for the class to begin
ABSENCE – Leaving class More than ten (10) minutes before the scheduled time for class to end
ABSENCE – Leaving class for More than ten (10) minutes during class time for any reason
ABSENCE – Three Tardies
TARDY – Arriving for the class after the instructor has called the roll and before ten minutes past the time scheduled for the class to begin.
TARDY – Leaving class within the last ten (10 minutes) of the scheduled time for class to end
Absences are counted from the first day of classes whether you are enrolled in the course or not on the first day of class.
There are NO "excused" absences; ALL absences are counted, regardless of the reason.
Students are expected to remain in class for the entire period. If you are not in the class for the entire period, for whatever reason, you will be counted ABSENT.

Online Course Attendance: Online instructors will establish and communicate to students the guidelines for determining attendance in their online courses. Attendance should be established along the same guidelines as on campus courses (see above). Attendance can be counted in a variety of ways such as identifying how many missing assignments constitute an absence or identifying a certain percentage of assignments that must be turned in for the student to be in attendance the required amount of time. Instructors should withdraw any students who exceed the total number of allowed absences.

Hybrid Course Attendance: [Hybrid instructors will count both on ground and online absences (as defined in the course syllabus and policies) in determining total absences in a hybrid course (see above). Instructor should establish and communicate to students what constitutes in class attendance and what constitutes online attendance. Instructor must be specific in what the online activities are and how they are graded. Students should be counted absent when they fail to participate in or submit specified online activities and/or assignments that equate to a class meeting. Tardies apply for on campus portion of course. Instructors should withdraw any students who exceed the total number of allowed absences, whether in class, online, or in combination.

Withdrawal: Should the maximum allowable absences be exceeded prior to midterm, a "W" will be submitted to the registrar to be recorded on the student’s transcript. Should the maximum allowable absences be exceeded after midterm, a "W" will be submitted to the registrar if the student was
Academic Dishonesty: For more information about academic dishonesty, see the Academic Affairs Student Guidelines and Expectations.

If you are suspected of cheating, your instructor will inform you. You may explain or refute the allegation. If your instructor still thinks the charges are founded, you will be referred to the Office of the Associate Vice
President of Student Development Services. Documentation is submitted to the Office of the AVP, SDS, by your instructor. You will then meet with either Dr. Holloway or Mr. Hayden. After the meeting, you will receive a letter with the sanction grade of zero (0) and any other sanctions deemed appropriate. You will have the right to file an appeal. Once the hearing and the notice of the right to appeal have been completed, instructor will be notified to apply the sanction grade of zero (0).

### Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Superior Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>