REL 103 – Comparative Religion  
Humanities Department

Catalog Course Description: This course is an analysis of the religious experience of various persons and groups, East and West, in traditional and contemporary settings. It includes tribal religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

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  
D2L Brightspace Login Page: https://elearn.midlandstech.edu/d2l/login

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

Textbook(s): WORLD RELIGIONS TODAY, ESPOSITO, 4TH 12, 2011, OXFORD UNIV PRESS INC., 9780199759514

General Education Core Competency Statement: REL 103 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. Identify and distinguish between a variety of humanity’s religious attitudes, practices, and beliefs.
2. Differentiate between world religions based on their important features and characteristics.
3. Explain the significant role of religions and religious experience throughout history and in a variety of cultural settings.
4. Articulate some of the most important basic concepts of religious faith and inquiry in its major historical expressions.
5. Demonstrate the importance of a civilized exchange of differing ideas.
6. Demonstrate effective analytical and 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 an analysis of the religious experience of various persons and groups, East and West, in traditional and contemporary settings.

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 passing the course at the time of withdrawal OR a "WF" will be submitted if the student was failing the course at the time of withdrawal.

**No Shows:** If you register for a course and decide not to attend for any reason, you must complete a drop form and process it through the student Records Office. You will not be automatically purged for non-attendance. If you do not submit a drop form, you will be responsible for course tuition and fees. By not officially dropping the course, you will incur a bill with the college that can only be addressed through the College’s Finance Office. The college’s refund policy and dates are posted each semester.

**Effective Spring 2015,** the Student Ombudsman’s office will no longer be the initial point of contact for requesting No Shows to be processed. Students who incur a bill must contact the Finance Office.

**Administrative Drop Requests:** A student requesting an Administrative Drop resulting from medical event, death of family member, and other extenuating circumstances experienced while enrolled at Midlands Technical College should be directed to the Student Ombudsman’s office. Our policy dictates a request must be made no later than 30 days after the affected term. Supporting documentation is required and must be received before the request can be processed. Once the request form is received along with supporting documentation, it takes approximately three weeks for processing. As a result of an approved Administrative Drop Request, the student may be granted a refund of tuition and fees.

**Military Withdrawal:** According to College Procedure 3.10.1, students having to withdraw from college because of Military Deployment (active duty personnel) while enrolled must complete a withdrawal form and submit to the Records Office along with a copy of military orders.

**Disabilities Statement:** The staff of Counseling and Career Services works to ensure that all educational programming and services are accessible to otherwise qualified students with disabilities. If you have a concern regarding the accessibility of websites, instructional materials, online courses and other electronic or information technology please contact Counseling and Career Services. It is the student’s responsibility to self-disclose as a student with a disability and to request accommodations prior to beginning a program or course. Please contact the staff of Counseling and Career Services at 803-822-3505 (AC) or 803-738-7636 (BC) or via email at disability@midlandstech.edu if you have any questions or concerns.

**D2L Brightspace Help:**

**Online Learning Support Help Desk:** Technical questions related to the operation and use of D2L Brightspace can be answered from our Support Help Desk. A response will be provided within one business day.

To login: use your MTC e-mail account username and password.
(Student Username Example: georgeasmith)
(Faculty Username Example: smithg)

**D2L Brightspace Assistance:** Technical questions related to the operation and use of D2L Brightspace can also be answered by leaving a voicemail at (803) 822-3561, or emailing D2LHelp@midlandstech.edu. A response will be provided within one business day.

**MyMTC Help:** For MyMTC log-in issues please call 803-738-7888.
**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>