

BIB2300_202338_Staging_EMBR_TEM

BIB-2300

2023 05/01/2023 to 04/30/2024 Modified 03/23/2023

Course Description

This World Religions course introduces the student to an overview of today's many religions. The student will understand that a person's beliefs and worldview can significantly impact how he/she lives. The student will explore the fact that because there are many unique and distinct viewpoints, it can be hard to distinguish the definitive roots of those belief systems. This course will guide the student to understand existing and past religions and faiths better. The course will give students a holistic overview of each of the existing primary faiths of the world, along with the origin, key texts, primary beliefs, and current status of each, giving the student a deeper understanding of how religions are formed and continue to flourish.

Rationale

Our educational philosophy is based on a Christian worldview. However, this course is intentionally unbiased, so students who take this course can gain a better understanding of other faiths that exist without prejudice or partiality being shown. Students who are able to understand other faiths will be able to understand other worldviews better and speak to why they would or would not choose certain religions or viewpoints. This course also helps educate students to speak about other areas of faith outside of Christianity. Walking through the existing worldviews will give students a better understanding of what religious beliefs are being presented today. This course will provide students with a thorough foundation on the origins, key texts, major philosophies, and current state of each major world religion. Students who take this course should be able to speak about each of the current belief systems and why each faith believes what it does.

Course Learning Outcomes

- A. The student will be presented with a comprehensive overview of each of the major world religions.
- B. The student will review the definition of religion and tools for studying religion.
- C. The student will be presented with the definition of ethics and will analyze western ethics and other ethical views.
- D. The student will examine how to think critically, the concept of worldviews, and various worldview philosophies.
- E. The student will be exposed to the origin of each of the major world religions.
- F. If applicable, the student will explore each of the key text(s) associated with each major world religion.
- G. The student will examine, analyze, and investigate the core beliefs and practices of each of the major beliefs.
- H. The student will evaluate the various world religions using critical thinking and establish their worldview based on the concepts presented.

Course Resources

See Ember's [Systems Requirements](#) for computer specifications necessary to operate this curriculum.

- Note: Embedded YouTube videos may be utilized to supplement Ember's YouTube videos are the property of the respective content creator, licensed to YouTube for distribution and user access. As a non-profit educational institution, Ember is able to use

* Course Policies

Types of Assessments

To simplify and clearly identify which policies apply to which assessment, each assessment has been categorized into one of four categories: Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test. Each applicable item on the course Modules page has been designated with an identifier chosen from among these categories. Thus, a Quiz on the American Revolution may be designated by the title, "1.2.W Quiz: The American Revolution."

- **Lesson:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a "Lesson"*

These include instructional content and sometimes an assessment of that content. Typically, a Lesson will be the day-to-day work that a student completes.

- **Assignment:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as an "Assignment"*

Typical examples of Assignments include, but are not limited to, papers, book reports, projects, labs, and speeches. Assignments are usually something that the student should do his or her best work on the first time.

- **Quiz:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a "Quiz"*

This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Quizzes cover a smaller amount of material than Tests.

- **Test:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a "Test"*

This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Tests cover a larger amount of material than Quizzes.

Materials Selection Policy

Ember curates educational materials that are consistent with the school's philosophy; however, the fallen human condition depicted in literature (as in Scripture itself) is not always pleasant. Valuable works sometimes have objectionable or profane elements. Good books provide four (4) recognized values.

- They build godly attitudes and character traits.
- They deepen our social and cultural awareness.
- They strengthen our use of written language.
- They provide a lifelong source of enjoyment and relaxation.

In order to instill these values in students and fulfill the stated objectives of the school, all Ember students are expected to read and study good books on a regular basis. Recognizing that materials designed for one level may not be appropriate for another, three (3) levels of criteria are applied:

- Elementary materials must contain no objectionable material,
- Objectionable elements in sixth through eighth-grade materials must be limited and must serve a specific educational purpose, and
- Objectionable content may be included in high school materials but must be outweighed by positive literary, curricular, and/or Christian values.

The curriculum department has approved required educational materials for students.

Resubmission Policy

Students are expected to submit their best work on the first submission for every Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, and Test. However, resubmissions may be permitted in the following circumstances:

- **Lesson:** Students are automatically permitted two attempts on a lesson. Students may freely resubmit for their first two attempts without the need for teacher approval.

If a student feels that he or she deserves a resubmission on a Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test due to a technical issue such as a computer malfunction, the student should message his or her teacher to make the request. With Ember, the teacher may be a physical school teacher or the student's parent/guardian. The teacher can give another attempt from his or her Canvas account. For more information on how to do this, please review the Ember orientation course.

Schedule

Module 1: What is Religion, Ethics, and Worldview?

- Week 1: Introduction – Religion and This Course
- Week 2: Ethics and Morality
- Week 3: Critical Thinking and an Introduction to Worldviews
- Week 4: Basic Worldview Philosophies
- Week 5: Recognizing Worldviews

Module 2: Belief Systems, Ancient Near Eastern Religions, and Other Ancient Religions

- Week 6: Basic Belief Systems
- Week 7: Ancient Near Eastern Religions, and Other Ancient Religions
- Week 8: Shamanism and Animism
- Week 9: Confucianism, First Quarter Test

Module 3: Hinduism, Greek Philosophy, and Eastern Religions

- Week 10: Zoroastrianism
- Week 11: Greek Philosophy
- Week 12: Hinduism
- Week 13: Hinduism Project
- Week 14: Taoism

Module 4: Far Eastern Religions – Shintoism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism

- Week 15: Shintoism and Sikhism
- Week 16: Jainism
- Week 17: Introduction to Buddhism
- Week 18: Buddhism, Second Quarter Test

Module 5: Judaism and Christianity

- Week 19: Introduction to Judaism
- Week 20: Judaism
- Week 21: Introduction to Christianity
- Week 22: Christianity

Module 6: Islam and Its Sects

- Week 23: Introduction to Islam
- Week 24: Islam
- Week 25: Islam (continued)
- Week 26: Monotheism Project
- Week 27: Review Week, Third Quarter Test

Module 7: Cults and Religions Outside the Mainstream

- Week 28: Introduction to Cults
- Week 29: Cults

- Week 30: Religions Outside the Mainstream
- Week 31: Cults and Other Religions Outside the Mainstream Project

Module 8: Truth, Absolutes, and Relativism

- Week 32: Moral Assumptions
- Week 33: Moral Absolutism
- Week 34: Syncretism in Religions
- Week 35: Tolerance and Relativism
- Week 36: Review Week, Fourth Quarter Test