





Religious Studies (RELS) 204

Introduction to World Religions (Revision 5)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online 

Credits:

6

Areas of study:

Arts or Humanities

Prerequisite:

None

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

RELS 204 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview



RELS 204 is a junior-level course designed to acquaint students with the major religious traditions of the world, and to the academic discipline of religious studies.

The religions studied are Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. They are examined through a study of their history, doctrinal concerns and development, literature, and ritual practices.

Outline

- Unit 1: Introduction
- Unit 2: Judaism
- Unit 3: Christianity
- Unit 4: Islam
- Unit 5: Hinduism
- Unit 6: Buddhism
- Unit 7: Chinese Religions—Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for *RELS 204*, you must achieve a course composite grade of 50% or higher. You must complete and submit all written assignments and write both exams for the course by your stipulated contract end date. You must achieve a grade of **D (50 percent)**  or higher on both the midterm and the final examinations.


Activity	Weight
4 Exercises (5%-10% each)	30%
2 Research Papers (15% each)	30%
2 Exams (20% each)	40%

Activity	Weight
Total	100%

The **midterm and final examinations** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

Materials

Ludwig, Theodore M. 2006. *The Sacred Paths*, 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. (PDF)  (PDF)

Smart, Ninian, and Richard D. Hecht, eds. 1982. *Sacred Texts of the World: A Universal Anthology*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company.

 (Print)

Other Resources

All of the other course materials are online, including a detailed Study Guide.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the RELS 204 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least D (50 percent) on the examinations, and an overall grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#).

Activity	Weight
Essay	50%
Exam	50%
Total	100%

[📄](#) **Challenge for credit course registration form**

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)
- › [Request assistance](#) [↗](#)
- › [Support services](#) [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View **previous revision** 
