Instructor Information

Instructor:  
Mr. Joseph John

Office:  
CHARTS 430

Mailbox:  
CHARTS Fine Arts and Humanities Office

Hours:  
MW 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
T TH 9:30-10:30 AM, 1:30-2:30 PM  
Friday by appt.

Phone:  
501-771-6025

Email:  
jjohn@uaptc.edu (This is the best way to contact me!)

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days.

Chair:  
Barry McVinney  
501-812-2383  
bmcvinney@uaptc.edu

Dean:  
Christy Oberste  
501-812-2869  
coberste@uaptc.edu

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.

Course Information

RELG 2305 Section (09S) meets Monday and Wednesday from 1:40-2:55 PM

Catalog Description

RELG 2305. World Religions This course introduces students to the study of great religions of the world—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity and others—by examining their history, beliefs, moral teachings, rituals and practices. It examines the global patterns of contemporary world religions as symbol systems and expressions of 305 discrete, coherent world views. The course combines lecture and discussion.

Prerequisites: Completion of DEVE 0316, 0317, OR 0110 (College Reading) with a grade of "C" or better, OR a score of 19 or above on the Reading section of the ACT, OR a score of 83 or above on the COMPASS Reading Placement test, OR a score of 78 or above on the Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Placement test. (3 credit hours) (O)

Course Materials


Computer Access: It is important that you have access to your UA-PTC email and Blackboard. You will be required to submit work on Blackboard. In addition, some extra Readings and copies of PowerPoint notes will be provided through Blackboard.
Mission Statement

University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cultural Awareness
4. Information Literacy
5. Professionalism
6. Quantitative Literacy
7. Technology Literacy

For more information, please consult the following website: https://uaptc.edu/sla

Department / Program Learning Outcomes

The Philosophy & Humanities Department, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting:

1. Critical and creative thought
2. Effective argumentation with a focus on tone, purpose and audience.
3. Academic Integrity
4. Independent thinking and learning
5. Written communication on a collegiate level
6. Exposure to various cultures and subcultures
7. The influence of culture on individuals and their work
8. Collaborative study and writing

Student Learning / Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain and recognize the basic tenets of the great religions of the world.
2. Explain how many religious beliefs influence the lives and practices of people throughout history and the modern world.
3. Gain an appreciation of how their own religious beliefs compare to the beliefs of others.
Policies

Report a Complaint or Concern

UA-PTC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint

UA-PTC Attendance Policy

Education at UA-PTC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

Departmental Attendance Policy

The UA-PTC Catalog rules and regulations will be enforced in this course at all times. Please consult the following website for more information: https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Students are expected to attend class regularly and be ready to ask and answer questions about the material. It is the student’s responsibility to read the schedule to see what reading is expected. Each student is allowed three absences during the semester -- no questions asked. Save your allotted absences for the occasional emergency or unforeseeable illness. Each absence after three will result in a reduction of your point total.

Keep in mind that when you miss class, you miss material that will be covered on exams. You also may miss classwork that you will not be able to make up. Except for exceptional circumstances (that are documented) being sick does not entitle you to an extra absence. If you miss an exam day without a documented stuff, there will be a penalty.

Students who miss two or fewer days of class will receive a bonus of +20 points (about 1 letter grade on an exam).
Grading Policy

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

- 90 to 100%   A
- 80 to 89%     B
- 70 to 79%     C
- 60 to 69%     D
- 0 to 59%      F

Grading Breakdown:

- **100 points**: Attendance & Participation
- **100 points**: Weekly Homework and Assignments
- **400 points**: Papers (4 papers at 100 points each)
- **400 points**: Exams: (2 exams at 200 points each)
- **1000 points Total**

**Attendance/Participation**: Show up and be awake. Students who are sleeping, reading, working on other classwork, or playing with their phones or computers will be counted absent. The use of laptops and tablets for taking notes is discouraged. Ask questions & participate in class discussions.

**Weekly Homework and Assignments**: Most weeks, there will be a short homework assignment based on the reading and the lectures. It is often a multiple choice quiz – you will have two attempts to take each quiz. 11 assignments at 10 points each; your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**Papers**: 4 papers, at 100 points each. Students will be able to choose from a list of paper prompts, comparing and contrasting religious traditions, or examining important philosophical concepts. No outside research is required for some of the topics; for others, students may have to do their own research. Papers should be 2-3 pages, 12 pt Times New Roman font, double spaced. More details will be provided closer to the due dates.

**Exams**: 2 Exams, at 200 points each. Exams are not cumulative – the final will cover only the second unit. They will consist of multiple choice and fill in the blank questions. A studyguide will be provided at least one week before the exam.

* Instructors have one week to provide feedback and post grades for all assignments unless otherwise noted by a departmental policy that has been approved by the Dean of the School.

**Academic Integrity**

It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalog states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”
The catalog also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.

**Course Plagiarism Policy:** Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course. All incidents of plagiarism, even unintentional or accidental ones, will be reported to the college. On the first offense, a student will be required to come to a meeting with the instructor and College officials, and then given a very long assignment about plagiarism, which he or she must complete successfully (At least 90% correct) in order to be allowed to continue in the course. This assignment will be posted online. The student will only then be allowed to redo the plagiarized assignment on a different topic to make up the credit, or to take a 0% and proceed with the course. On a second offense, the student will automatically fail the course.

Plagiarism is the representation of someone else’s writing or ideas as your own. **It can be accidental as well as intentional.** It is the student’s responsibility to fully understand what plagiarism is. If you use someone else’s work, make sure to cite it properly and give them credit. Proper citation methods will be discussed during class. If you are not sure what counts as plagiarism, feel free to discuss it with the instructor. More information can be found at [http://www.plagiarism.org/](http://www.plagiarism.org/).

**Accommodation Policy**

Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide current and relevant documentation. Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student’s responsibility to provide their Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.

**Student Code of Conduct**

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, access the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog. [http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2](http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2)
Sexual Misconduct

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership
Campus Center Building Room 216
501-812-2756
manderson@uaptc.edu

Course Evaluations

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

Information Literacy

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.
## Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/9/19</td>
<td>Course Introduction, Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/14/19 Studying Religion, p.1-28</td>
<td>1/16/19 Indigenous traditions Part I, p. 43-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/21/19 No Class – MLK Day</td>
<td>1/23/19 Indigenous Traditions, Colonialism Readings: King Ferdinand’s Letter (Handout), p. 63-82.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/28/19 Zoroastrianism, Writing Religion Papers</td>
<td>1/30/19 Paper 1 Due – Zoroastrianism, Indigenous Traditions Introduction to Judaism, p. 90-115</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/11/19 Christian Traditions part I, p 153-174</td>
<td>2/13/19 Medieval Christianity Through the Protestant Reformation, p 175-187</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/18/19 Christianity, Part III, p. 194-209</td>
<td>2/20/19 Islam Part I, p. 219-236 Paper 2 Due – Judaism &amp; Christianity</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4/19 Catch Up, Review Day</td>
<td>3/6/19 Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Class Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/11/19</td>
<td>Hindu Traditions, Part I</td>
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<td>Handout: The Upanishads</td>
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<td>3/13/19</td>
<td>Hindu Traditions, Part II</td>
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<td>3/18/19</td>
<td>Spring Break – No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/20/19</td>
<td>Spring Break – No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/25/19</td>
<td>Hindu Traditions, Part III</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/27/19</td>
<td>Sikh Traditions</td>
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<td>4/1/19</td>
<td>Jaina Traditions. P. 343-368</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/3/19</td>
<td>Paper III Due – Hindu, Muslim, &amp; Sikh Traditions</td>
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<td>Buddhism: Intro, the story of the Buddha</td>
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<td>4/8/19</td>
<td>Theravada Buddhism</td>
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<td>4/10/19</td>
<td>Mahayana Buddhism</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/15/19</td>
<td>Confucianism</td>
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<td>4/17/19</td>
<td>Confucianism, cont.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/22/19</td>
<td>Daoism</td>
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<td>4/24/19</td>
<td>Zen Buddhism</td>
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<td>4/29</td>
<td>New Religions &amp; Movements</td>
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<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/1/19</td>
<td>New Religions &amp; Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6/19</td>
<td>Paper IV Due – Buddhism, Chinese Traditions, New Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catch up &amp; Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/8/19</td>
<td>Review for Final Exam</td>
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Final Exam: TBA, scheduled for finals week.

**Disclaimer:** This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.
Course Agreement Form

Read, complete, and return to instructor:

I have read the course syllabus for Joseph John’s World Religions class at Pulaski Technical College, and I understand its content. I also understand the rules for the class, and I will follow and abide by these rules, including those relating to attendance, assignments, grading criteria, plagiarism, and behavior.

__________________________________________
Semester

__________________________________________
Date

__________________________________________
Print name

__________________________________________
Signature

__________________________________________
UA-UA-PTC Email address

__________________________________________
Telephone