

COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Prepared by: Holly Oakleaf
Status: New Experimental

Date: 10/10/0707
Expires: 201110

A. Identification:

1. Subject Area: Religious Studies
2. Course Number: REL 206
3. Course Title: American Religions
4. Credit Hrs: 3
5. Catalog Description:

This course will introduce the student to religions in America through the consideration of four thematic approaches to a description of American religions as a whole. These thematic approaches cut across religious traditions and attempt to characterize some of the ways in which the extraordinary variety in the American religious imagination shares characteristics by virtue of its common environment and its common history. The four thematic descriptions of American religions that we will examine are Natural Religion, Disestablished Religion, Constitutional Religion, and Antebellum Religions. There are of course other themes that could be chosen and we will from time to time note those other themes as they touch on our work.

B. Course Goals:

The object of this course is to develop in the student a beginning competence in thinking, talking and writing about American religions. This course will familiarize students with American religions, traditions through Natural Religions, Disestablished Religions, and Constitutional Religions. Also, this course will provide students with the tools of religious studies scholarship and research.

C. Course Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Compare and contrast American religious traditions.
2. Explain the values, belief systems, and issues of American religious traditions.
3. Critique basic approaches to the study of American religions and evaluate their merits and deficiencies.
4. Construct a critical analytical approach to the study of American religions through reading, discussion, writing and research.
5. Evaluate the social, political and justice issues involved of American religions through the U.S. Constitution.

D. Course Content:

Will include:

1. The hermeneutic issues involved in understanding religion across cultures
2. Defining American Religions through the following themes
 1. Natural Religions
 2. Disestablished Religions
 3. Constitutional Religions
 4. Antebellum Religions
3. Antebellum Religious uprising, primarily in the Burned-over District
4. The interchange between American religions and culture
5. Survival of Religion and the U.S. Constitution
6. Evolution of Religion to accommodate modern society