

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: REL 240

Credits: 3

Course Title: Religions in America

Course Description: Surveys various manifestations of religion in the American experience. Emphasizes concepts, problems, and issues of religious pluralism and character of American religious life. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: Fulfills the Humanities/Fine Arts elective for all AA and AS degrees, and provides information for anyone interested in learning about religion in America.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Understand the role of religion in the founding of America;
- b. Understand the diversity of religion in America throughout its history;
- c. Understand the relationship between American religion and American identity;
- d. Understand civil and cultural religion;
- e. Understand and appreciate religious pluralism; and
- f. Examine the role of religion in public policy and American culture.

Major Topics to Be Included

- a. Role of religion among Native Americans and early evangelism and missionary work during the age of exploration
- b. Role of religion in American's founding
- c. History, beliefs, and practices of world's major religions in America
- d. History, beliefs, and practices of Metaphysics in America, including witchcraft, new thought, spiritualism, and theosophy
- e. African-American religion
- f. American religion and American identity
- g. New religions of the nineteenth century
- h. Civil and cultural religion
- i. Religious pluralism
- j. Religion, public policy, and American culture

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