Course Prefix and Number: REL 240  
Course Title: Religions in America  
Credits: 3

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 America’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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J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary