

# REL 201: Introduction to Religions

Introduction to Religions introduces students to the academic study of the global concepts and phenomena of religion. This course reviews the origins of religion in cultures around the world including definitions, evolution, and forms creation and belief systems by examining social definition and identity making, anthropology, theology, symbolism, and literary analysis.

## Course Materials: OER, E-Books, and Digital Journals

The University of Northern Colorado strives to provide students with equitable access to quality learning materials. To keep your course materials costs to a minimum, this course uses a combination of Open Access (OA) materials and journals, Library-Licensed Educational Resources (OER), Open Educational Resources (OER), public domain (PD) works, and copyrighted materials used under the Fair Use Exception (C/FUE). These are high-quality materials available at no additional cost to you and have been curated specifically to support the learning outcomes of this course.

I am interested in your experience using these materials and welcome your feedback at any time throughout the semester or through the anonymous end-of-course survey.

### Introduction

1	LER	McCutcheon, R. T. (2018). <b>The essentials of religion</b> . In <i>Studying religion</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed., pp.37-54). Routledge. <a href="http://bit.ly/3U57mTy">http://bit.ly/3U57mTy</a>
2	OER	<b>Thinking generically about religion</b> . In <i>Six ways of being religious: A framework for comparative studies in religion</i> (pp. 17-48). Western Oregon State College. <a href="https://bit.ly/40X1RZj">https://bit.ly/40X1RZj</a>
3	OA	Dennett, D. (2006). <b>Let's teach religion – all religion – in schools</b> [Video]. TEDTalks <a href="https://bit.ly/3G8UI5O">https://bit.ly/3G8UI5O</a>
4	OA	Boucher, K., & Kucinskas, J. (2016). <b>“Too smart to be religious?” Discreet seeking amidst religious stigma at an elite college</b> . <i>Social Inclusion</i> , 4(2), 40-51. <a href="https://bit.ly/3GcuvxE">https://bit.ly/3GcuvxE</a>
5	OA	WGBH Educational Foundation. (2015). <b>World religions map</b> [Map]. PBS Learning Media. <a href="https://shorturl.at/jH146">https://shorturl.at/jH146</a>

### Native American Religions

6	LER	McGraw, J. J. (2013). <b>Native American religions</b> . In A. L. C. Runehov & L. Oviedo (Eds.), <i>Encyclopedia of sciences and religions</i> (pp. 1394-1398). Springer. <a href="https://bit.ly/40Z7UwD">https://bit.ly/40Z7UwD</a>
7	LER	Irwin, L. (2000). <b>Native American spirituality</b> . In <i>Native American spirituality: A critical reader</i> (pp. 9-18). University of Nebraska Press. <a href="https://bit.ly/430cyfo">https://bit.ly/430cyfo</a>
8	OA	Crouse, H. (2020). <b>Indigenous religions of Canada</b> [Video]. YouTube. <a href="http://shorturl.at/jrwRW">http://shorturl.at/jrwRW</a>
9	C/FUE	Spradlin, L. K. (2012). <b>Learning from Native American stories</b> . In <i>Diversity matters: Understanding diversity in schools</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 78-98). Wadsworth Cengage Learning. <a href="https://bit.ly/3U7pRXi">https://bit.ly/3U7pRXi</a>
10	PD	Spence, L. (1913). <b>The mythology of Peru</b> . In <i>The myths of Mexico and Peru</i> . <a href="http://shorturl.at/eEU49">http://shorturl.at/eEU49</a>

### African Religions

11	LER	Gomez, M. A. (2013). <b>Africans, religion, and African religion through the Nineteenth Century</b> . <i>Journal of Africana Religions</i> , 1(1), 78-90. <a href="https://bit.ly/3M7Lp4I">https://bit.ly/3M7Lp4I</a>
12	LER	Metz, T., & Molefe, M. (2021). <b>Traditional African religion as a neglected form of monotheism</b> . <i>The Monist</i> , 104(3), 393-409. <a href="https://bit.ly/3m0k9Kk">https://bit.ly/3m0k9Kk</a>
13	LER	Mufata, W. L., & Kaunda, C. J. (2021). <b>Recovering African religions as “world religions”</b> : The case of the <b>Zulu religion</b> . <i>Black Theology</i> , 19(2), 122-134. <a href="https://bit.ly/40DNUQa">https://bit.ly/40DNUQa</a>