



## Semester Long Course Plan

**Department:** Theology

**Course:** Comparative Religions 156

**Essential Learning Outcomes:** After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the reasons why it is beneficial to study comparative religions.
2. describe the Vatican II teachings regarding the relationship of the Catholic Church with non-Catholic Christian Churches and non-Christian religions.
3. demonstrate a basic understanding of the answers that each religious tradition of the world that we have studied, offers in response to life's basic questions.
4. demonstrate improved acquaintance with the basic elements – *experiential, mythic, doctrinal, ethical, ritual, social, and material dimensions* – of the world's religions that have been examined in this course..
5. verify that their understanding of the people who adhere to the world's various religions has been significantly enhanced.

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>
<p><b><u>Unit 1: Introduction to Comparative Religions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for study of Comparative Religions</li> <li>• Catholic Church Teaching               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Catechism</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Constitution on the Church</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Nostra Aetate, etc.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nature of a Religious Tradition               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Religious Questions</i></li> <li>➤ <i>7 Dimensions of Religion</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Unit 2: Primal Religious Traditions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Aborigines</li> <li>• The Yoruba of Africa</li> <li>• The Plains Indians</li> <li>• The Aztecs</li> <li>• Common Elements &amp; Themes</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Unit 3: Hinduism</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Hinduism</li> <li>• Human Destiny</li> <li>• Hindu Society               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Caste System</li> <li>➤ Stages of Life</li> <li>➤ Four Goals of Life</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 3 Paths to Liberation / Hindu Sacred Writings</li> <li>• Hinduism in the Modern World</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Unit 4: Buddhism</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life of Siddhartha Gautama</li> <li>• 3 Jewels of Buddhism</li> <li>• The Dharma: Buddhist Teachings</li> <li>• 3 Divisions of Buddhism</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Unit 5: Judaism</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Judaism</li> <li>• Central Teachings – God &amp; Torah</li> <li>• History / Three Branches of Judaism</li> <li>• Daily Living / Life Cycle Rituals / Holy Days / Dietary Regulations</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Unit 6: Islam</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Islam / History</li> <li>• The Foundations of Islam               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Qur'an</li> <li>➤ The Prophet Muhammad</li> <li>➤ Primary Teachings</li> <li>➤ The Community of Muslims (Umma)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Basic Practices and Social Teachings</li> <li>• Varieties of Islam</li> </ul>