COURSE NUMBER: SOC 411
COURSE TITLE: Special Topics: Sociology of Religion
PREREQUISITE: PSY 101/ SOC 101

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Throughout history societies have incorporated religion as a means of establishing norms and values of societal life and provided a system of order. This course will explore the role and functions of religion and religious experiences as part of larger society. Students will explore the basics concepts of sociology of religion, discuss the role of religion in modern societies, and analyze the “social-ness” of the practice of religion itself.

COURSE RATIONALE:
Religion has been a major force in constructing societal norms and values, and, historically, has also been a great source of conflict between societies. Learning about the development and doctrines about the various world religions will provide insights to religious practices and religion’s relevance to contemporary life.

I. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Students will be oriented to the development and doctrines of various world religions.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
A-1. Summarize the development of major world religions
A-2. Explain the doctrine of at least 3 major world religions

GOAL B: Students will be able to explain the role of religion in society.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
B-1. Describe how religion structures society
B-2. Describe the interaction between religions and governments
B-3. Identify the influence and contributions of at least 3 major religious leaders (each from a different religion)
B-4. Differentiate between religion as a personal experience and religion as a public influence
B-5. Discuss the social dynamics of religion objectively

GOAL C: Students will review major religious movements in the world.
Learning Outcomes: The student will:
C-1. Summarize the religious influence in American independence
C-2. Review sources of religious conflict
C-3. Identify a major religious movement in a country other than the students’ home country

GOAL D: The student will use appropriate written and oral communication skills

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
D-1 Write clearly, concisely, and appropriately using correct English grammar, punctuation, usage, mechanics, sentence structure, and vocabulary.
D-2 Use appropriate APA format for scholarly writings.
D-3 Speak with confidence, clarity, and conciseness.
D-4 Research, prepare, and deliver professional presentations

VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and prompt class attendance is an essential part of the educational experience. Wilmington College expects students to exercise good judgment regarding attendance. Students accept full responsibility for ensuring that work does not suffer from absences. All students are expected to attend every scheduled meeting of each class on time. Exceptions may be made for Wilmington College-sponsored or work-related activities, illness, or valid emergencies.