A. OBJECTIVES for WORLD RELIGIONS 35

“The objectives of the courses in religious studies are to provide an opportunity to experience a number of cultural, historical and contemporary issues from a religious point of view, and through the study of religion as a separate discipline to develop a philosophy based upon values conducive to ethical and moral behavior and reflected in an understanding of human worth.”

(Government of Alberta, Report of the Commission on Educational Planning.)

Learning Objectives prescribed by Alberta Education for World Religions 35 are covered in the following lessons:

- Objective 1 - Meaning of religion
- Objective 2 - Development of religion
- Objective 3 - Faith is the core element of religion
- Objective 4 - Major religions of the world
- Objective 5 - Basic beliefs and practices of the major religions of the world.

B. OUTCOMES

Chapter One: World Religions and Religious Pluralism

The focus is on the goals of dialogue, how to engage in dialogue and the four types of dialogue. This is key content as each chapter concludes with a section on interreligious dialogue.
Chapter Two: Who Are Catholics
The chapter content is important in that students’ background and familiarity with Catholicism may be quite varied.

Chapter Three: The Story of Canadian Aboriginal Spirituality
The spirituality and spiritual traditions of all Aboriginal peoples in Canada are rooted in a similar worldview – that everything that exists in the natural world has a spirit, and is interconnected. Aboriginal spirituality has a strong connection to the physical environment and to oral traditions whereby sacred teachings were passed down. Contemporary efforts for reconciliation and renewal are explored.

Chapter Seven: The Story of Hinduism *
The vocabulary introduced in this chapter is extensive but there are key terms students should know to make discussion, reading and writing assignments easier. Of particular interest will be Hindu and Catholic relations as reflected in the life of Gandhi and Christian missionaries.

Chapter Eight: The Story of Buddhism *
The content here deals with the life of the founder, Siddhartha Gautama and the historical development of different forms of Buddhism. Various rituals, central beliefs, moral guidelines and family life are all discussed. The chapter concludes with a section on the relationship between the Catholic Church and Buddhism.

Chapter Ten: Modernity and Religion
This chapter deals with the numerous movements, trend, and beliefs that have developed in the wake of globalization (modernity) and the influence modernity and religion have had on each other and on life in Canada.

Chapter Eleven: Living Faith Today
The concluding chapter highlights and reviews key concepts that were discussed throughout the text and offers an opportunity for further summative evaluation. The chapter explores ways to become involved in ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, which will define the lives of Catholics and concern all people in this century.
C. **ASSESSMENT**

A person’s relationship with God is a matter of conscience, the internal forum of the soul. God alone is the arbiter of souls. It is important, therefore, that we avoid the grading or evaluation of a student’s faith.

We grade the knowledge the student has acquired based on the program of studies and the skills the student is able to show in articulating his/her knowledge.

A wide range of assessment information is used in the development of a student’s final grade. Individualized assessments provide specific information regarding student progress and overall performance in class. Student assessment may vary from student to student to adapt to differences in students needs, learning styles, preferences, and paces. Not all assignments are used for assessment.

**Christian Action Assignment**  
15%
(Minimum hours of service = 10 – typically these would not be instructional hours)

**Course Work**  
85%
Course work can include journal entries, prayer assignments, chapter assignments, chapter task suggestions and projects.
The Power School Grade Book Codes:

Only the following may appear for a student on an assignment in a course.

1. a numeric value
2. “√” [Green “check mark’] This indicates an assignment has been received
3. Late “L” (Red ‘L’) - this indicates that the assignment is has not been turned in on time. No change to the course grade will result.
4. Exempt “EX” (Grey “EX”) - this is used for all items that are not to be included in that student’s grade calculation. (see disclaimer) No change to the course grade will result.
5. Missing “M” (Tan “M”) - The student has missed an assessment but has the opportunity to complete the required work. The work will be evaluated when submitted according to a timeline set up in consultation between the student and the teacher. This code will calculate as a zero until the code has been replaced with a numeric value.

Please Note: A range of assessment information is used to determine a student’s final grade. At Archbishop MacDonald High School, individualized assessments provide specific information regarding student progress and overall performance in the course. Student assessment may vary from student to student to adapt to differences in student needs, learning styles, preferences, and paces. Due to special circumstances assessment criteria may vary from student to student in the same course.

D. PRIMARY RESOURCES

- The General Directory for Catechism

E. ECS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Policy 300

6c. In order to receive high school graduation diploma from Edmonton Catholic Schools, all senior high students shall complete three Religious Studies Rel.15, 25, and 35 and/or Religions of the World 35.* This regulation will take effect for grade 10 students from 2005-2006 academic year.

   i. New students registering part way through high school will meet the above requirements for religious education based on the discretion of the principal.

   ii. Where diverse scheduling is required, the principal will determine the appropriate mode of delivery.

* Students who successfully complete Religions of the World 35 WILL NOT be required to complete RS 25 in order to graduate.