Brookhaven College
Social Science Division
Fall 2012
Phil 1304.2002
3 Credit Hours
T&TH 9:00-10:20

Instructor: Jason Surmiller
Phone #: 972-860-4130
Email: jsurmiller@dcccd.edu
Office Hours: Before and after class or by appointment.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION PREREQUISITE: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or must have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.
This course surveys the major world religions. Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity are included. The history of religions is covered, but the major emphasis is on current beliefs. Other topics may also be included, such as the nature of religion, tribal religion, and alternatives to religion.

COORDINATING BOARD ACADEMIC APPROVAL NUMBER 3802015212

OBJECTIVES This course is designed as an introduction to and survey of major world religions. The academic study of religion -- which is not to be confused with a faith-centered approach to the study of religion -- approaches the phenomenon of religion in human life as an objective field of study and inquiry. This course will focus upon the beliefs and history of the world's major religions.

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies
1. Reading - the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials - books, documents, and articles - above 12th grade level.
2. Writing - the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience - above 12th grade level.
3. Critical Thinking - think and analyze at a critical level.

Learning Outcomes These outcomes address the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC) and the Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO) in the humanities and visual and performing arts.

Upon completion of PHIL 1304, students will be able to demonstrate competence in the academic study of religion by:
I. Demonstrating awareness of the nature of religion, the variety of religions in the world and religion's impact upon culture and human self-understanding. (This outcome satisfies CCIC 1-5 and EEO 1, 2, 3, and 5.) The student will be able to:
   a. Describe major world religions including basic theology, beliefs, history, ritual and practices.
   b. Define and describe the key personages and scriptures of major world religions.
c. Define a variety of religious/cultural/social problems and potential solutions.
d. Describe the development of religions within their historical and/or social contexts.
e. Explain differing impacts of religion upon and within cultures.

II. Articulating an informed personal reaction to world religions. (This outcome satisfies CCIC 1-5 and EEO 1, 2, 3 and 4.) The student will be able to:
   a. Articulate a personal reaction to the beliefs and cultural impact of several religions.
   b. Articulate a personal reaction to questions of personal religious belief/unbelief.

III. Applying critical thinking skills to complex problems impacted by religion. (This outcome satisfies CCIC 1-5 and EEO 3, 4, and 5.) The student will be able to:
   a. Critique religion-based propositions, claims and practices.
   b. Analyze and critique complex, contemporary religious issues presented in scholarly and popular articles.
   c. Analyze religious problems and conflicts from multiple points of view.
   d. Describe the dynamics of the relationship between faith and reason.

Course Material: Required textbook: Experiencing the World's Religions, Fifth Edition by Michael Molloy
McGraw-Hill, 2010
ISBN: 978-0-07-340750-0
Students may also purchase this required text at the Follett Bookstore located on the Brookhaven College Campus. The textbook is also available as an eTextbook at www.coursesmart.com, which allows for significant savings.

Course Requirements:
Lectures: Lectures are scheduled for each class meeting during the semester except when a discussion or an examination is scheduled. The lectures are primarily topical in nature. These lectures are not designed to cover all textbook material but rather to give an overview of each topic through the presentation of pertinent thought-provoking topics. It is critically important for the student to complete the assigned readings.

Attendance: Students are responsible for attending all classes. While this course has no attendance policy, attending class regularly is important since most of the exam questions will come from lectures and class discussions. In the case of an absence, the student is accountable for material that was covered.

Regarding Financial Aid: Students who are receiving any form of Financial Aid should check with the Financial Aid office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

Exams: There will be six exams given throughout the course of the semester that will cover the lectures, class discussion and readings from the text. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions and will require a scantron. A study guide will be provided about a week before the exam. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped.
**Participation Assignments:** Class participation is part of your grade, so be sure to show up having read the assignments. Discussions will occur either in groups or as a class. Discussions will be based primarily on text. Your class participation grade includes: preparing for, and participating in, all class discussions; student conduct; and any other material assigned throughout the course of the semester that is not listed on this syllabus.

**Group presentation:** You as a member of a small group will create a religion based on what you learn from the religions that we will study. As much as the instructor will grade you your fellow group members will grade your participation in the group. You will present your religion in front of the class.

**Extra Credit:** There is no extra credit for this course.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism means the use of someone else’s words or ideas without attribution. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, directly copying material from a book, article or textbook either with or without attribution, cutting and pasting material from online sources including sparknotes.com and Encarta.com and/or purchasing or downloading papers from internet sites. Students who plagiarize on papers or exams will suffer harsh penalties. Penalties will begin with a zero for the assignment. No excuses for plagiarism will be accepted at any time.

**Make-up Exams:** There are no make-up exams for this course. Your lowest exam grade and quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

**Please turn cell phones and beepers off:** If you do have an emergency please put your phone on vibrate and step outside to take the call.

**Civility policy:** Class attendance requires civility and courtesy towards students as well as the professor. As such, the following behaviors are prohibited: surfing the internet, cell phones, pagers, reading, studying for other classes, chronic tardiness or any other action deemed disruptive or inappropriate by the instructor.

The professor reserves the right to remove anyone from the class for violating these policies.

A verbal warning will be issued at the first occurrence of problematic behavior, where the student is told that the conduct will not be tolerated or allowed.
A second occurrence will result in another verbal warning or possible eviction from the class
And written notification being sent to the dean of the college, explaining the circumstances of the offense.
A third occurrence of the activity will result in the student being sent to the appropriate academic dean and potentially being dropped from the class.

**Grade determination:**
Exams 80%
Group Project 20%

**LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT:**

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F 59 and below

**Tentative Instructional Outline:**

This Schedule may change with or without prior notice.

Week 1 (08/28-30):
1. Introduction
2. Hinduism: The Scriptures: Vedas and Upanishads

Week 2 (09/4-6):
Hinduism: The Caste System

Week 3 (09/11-13):
Hinduism: The Religion Today & the Exam

Week 4 (09/18-20):
Buddhism: Buddhism: Buddha the Founder & The Teachings

Week 5 (09/25-27)
Buddhism: The Different Schools & Exam

Week 6 (10/2-4):
Judaism: Jewish History & Beliefs and Practices
Week 7 (10/9-11)
Judaism: The Holocaust and the State of Israel & The Jewish Sects Today & Exam

Week 8 (10/16-18)
Christianity: The Life of Jesus Christ & The Gospels and Early Christian History

Week 9 (10/23-25)
Christianity: The Spread of Christianity and its various Sects & Christianity Today

Week 10 (10/30-11/1)
Christianity: Exam

Islam: The Teachings of Islam and its development

Week 11 (11/6-8)
Islam: The Spread of Islam and the Modern World

Week 12 (11/13-15)
Islam: Islam Sects and Exam

Week 13 (11/20)
Daoism and Confucianism: Their Origins and Historical Development

Week 14 (11/27-29)
Daoism and Confucianism: Essential Beliefs

Week 15 (12/3-6)
Group Presentations

Finals week 12/10-13

The American with Disabilities Act Information
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires ADA accommodations, please contact your Disability/Special Services office in Room S-124 or call 972-860-4847 on the Brookhaven Campus.

Religious Holidays:
Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Academic Dishonesty:
Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.
As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Brookhaven College Catalog.

Withdrawal Policy:
If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by Nov 15, 2012. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an “F.” If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped.

Repeating this course:
Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester.

Stop Before You Drop:
For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions.

Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges.

Retrieving your grand and EConnect
Grades may be checked on-line through eConnect or by visiting the Advising Center. Specific instructions for obtaining your grades can be found at http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/studentsvcs/grades/
Go the Brookhaven College website and select A-Z and student services to learn about all their services.

Students Receiving Financial Aid:
If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date 09/10/12 by either e-mailing or contacting the instructor or logging on to eCampus. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid office. Changes in your enrollment level and/or failing grades may have adverse consequences. Phone: 972-860-4110.
Testing Center: Cell phones and pagers are no longer allowed in the Testing Center.

General Statement indicating that an instructor has the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

No food or drinks allowed in the classroom.