PHIL 1303-3420—Major World Religions  
Cedar Valley College

GENERAL INFORMATION  
College Name Cedar Valley College  
Division Liberal Arts  
Semester/Term & Year Fall 2012

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION  
Name Dr. Ann Farley-Parker  
DCCCD E-mail address Farley-Parker@DCCCD.edu  
Telephone  
Office Number Adjunct Office—972.860.8230  
Office Number Adjunct Office—A108

COURSE INFORMATION  
Course Number PHIL 1304  
Section Number 3420  
Credit Hours 3 hours  
Class Meeting Time online course  
Course Title Major World Religions

Course Description Philosophy 1304 is an introductory course surveying the major World Religions. Studies of 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 include the nature of religion, tribal religions, and alternatives to traditional religions.

Course Prerequisites: One of the following must be met:  
(1) Developmental Reading 0093 AND Developmental Writing 0093;  
(2) English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 AND 0054; or  
(3) Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Reading and Writing standards


eCampus access: All students enrolled in this course also are automatically enrolled in an online module for the course available at: eCampus.dcccd.edu. Be sure to access the Spring 2012 log in screen.

The Syllabus is available on eCampus along with homework assignments and other materials, i.e. handouts and instruction sheets, so that they are readily available for you. A Gradebook is available on eCampus where you can follow your grades. Check this frequently during the semester.
General Education

This course reinforces some of the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (DCCCD Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Intellectual Competencies) Coordinating Board.

1. **READING**: Reading at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials—book, article and documents.

2. **WRITING**: Competency in writing is the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience.

3. **CRITICAL THINKING**: Critical thinking embraces methods of applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to evaluate arguments and to construct alternative strategies. Problem solving is one of the applications of critical thinking, used to address and identified task.

4. **COMMUNICATION**: To develop skills in oral, visual, and written communication.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

During this course you will be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills by explaining and assessing strengths and weaknesses of a philosophical position or theory.

2. Argue for informed answers to selected philosophical questions.

3. Research complex issues, synthesize data and present conclusions about issues.

Throughout the course you will find that an open mind that researches and listens is a key requirement for good discussion and analysis of issues.

**Exams and Assignments:**

**Discussion Boards**

You will have the opportunity to dialog with fellow students through eight (8) Discussion Boards on eCampus. To receive full credit for discussion participation a student must post his/her own response to the questions posed and also respond to another student’s response (minimum of 2 substantive submissions). The response can indicate agreement or disagreement or other comments but must be **substantive**, explaining the reasons for the comments.

**Exams**

We will have three (3) Unit Exams throughout the semester. Each examination is composed of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions based on material covered by the textbook. These exams are available on eCampus. You may utilize your textbook when taking the exam. These are designed to evaluate your familiarity with the key concepts in reading assignments.
Religion Reflections
Six (6) Religion Reflection assignments will be made throughout the semester--four (4) ask for your reflections on specific religions, one ask you to take a look at your own religious beliefs, and one paper involves reflections on a new religious experience. Each of these papers must address specific questions and follow a specified format as outlined on eCampus. These papers are designed to encourage you to reflect on the beliefs and practices of several major world religions, as well as your own faith perspective.

Comparison Papers
Two (2) Comparison Papers allow you the opportunity to juxtapose two sets of major world religions. For the first paper, you may select any two major religions in the textbook. You may choose two that have been covered by your assigned reading thus far, or you may choose to read ahead and select religions found later in the book. (If you have a question about whether a religion is appropriate for this paper, contact the professor.) For the second paper, you will compare and contrast the two major Western religions, Christianity and Islam. Each of these papers must address specific questions and follow a specified format as outlined on eCampus. These papers are designed to help you compare “apples to apples” (so to speak) as you study these religions.

Evaluation of Writing Assignments
All written assignments must be typed (1” margins, 12 point font, double-spaced, black ink) and submitted on the due date assigned. No late assignments will be accepted, except by prior arrangement with the professor. All written assignments must demonstrate critical thinking and reflection on the questions assigned. The grading of essays will include deductions of points for violations of basic, English grammar rules and/or the guidelines of composition of a sentence, paragraph, or essay. These deductions are made to encourage clarity and the use of good writing skills. When the rules of English grammar and composition are not followed, the essays lose clarity and the writer’s communication is ineffective. Some students may want to take advantage of the Writing Lab in obtaining assistance in writing essays. The professor will assign five (5) extra credit points for assignments that have been reviewed in the Writing Lab. The student should have the Writing Lab tutor stamp or sign the work that was reviewed.

Due Dates/Late Work: All assignments are due as assigned in the Course Schedule. Each assignment is due by midnight of the due date (generally Sundays except Easter Sunday). NO late work will be accepted unless arrangements have been made with the professor prior to the due date of the assignment. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up to date on all assignments listed in the syllabus as well as others assigned from time to time by the professor.

Evaluation Procedures
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards (8 @ 25 each)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Exams (3 @ 100 each)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion Reflections (6 @ 50 each)</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparison Papers (2 @ 100 each)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
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Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>Fail</td>
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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 Thursday, November 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. See institutional policies for additional information on withdrawals.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend regularly all classes in which you are enrolled. You have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with your Instructor when an absence occurs. Roll will be taken each class period. You are expected to be in class when the roll is taken and to remain for the entire class period. Excessive lateness or early departures will result in adjustments to the final grade average. For each absence in excess of two days of class, deductions will be made at ever-increasing rates such as specified in the following example. The first 2 times that a student misses class no deduction is made. For each successive day absent, deductions are made as follows: on the 3rd absence, 2 points are deducted; on the 4th absence, 3 points are deducted; on the 5th absence, 4 points are deducted and so on thereby reducing the final average. Every late arrival after the first 2 also results in a one-point penalty reduction in the final grade.

Classroom Policies: All cell phones, pagers, palm pilots and other handheld devices, unless being demonstrably used to take class notes, must be turned off and out of sight. The Professor and other students find the interruptions provided by these external communication devices disruptive to the learning experience for all students. If a cell phone rings during class, this will be considered a disruption of the class and may lead to the offending student being dismissed from the remainder of class and marked as absent. If a student’s cell phone causes frequent or persistent disruptions, disciplinary actions listed in the student code of conduct will be considered. Students disrupt the class with private conversations while other students or the Professor are speaking. They will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the session and be recorded as absent. The Instructor may ask any Student to leave the class when he/she is engaging in behavior disrupting the learning environment in the class.
Course Outline: There follows a general outline of topics considered in this course. For maximum success in this course you should spend a minimum of 9 hours per week working on course material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to Religion, Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tribal Religion, Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ancient Religions, Chapter 3</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Greek and Hellenistic Religion, Chapter 7</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism Chapter 4</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Buddhism, Chapter 8</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Chinese Religions, Chapter 6</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Japanese Religions, Chapter 6 cont.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Judaism, Chapter 5</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Christianity, Chapter 9</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Islam, Chapter 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Christianity versus Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Modern Religion, Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Conclusion to the Course</td>
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Quality Enhancement Plan: Cedar Valley College's Quality Enhancement Plan is designed to improve student learning in mathematics. Read more about our QEP at—[www.cedarvalleycollege.edu/QEP](http://www.cedarvalleycollege.edu/QEP)

Instructor Biography: Dr. Farley-Parker has been an adjunct professor in the Dallas County Community College District since Fall 2001. She has taught Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics, and Major World Religion courses at Cedar Valley College, Eastfield College, and Mountain View College. She also teaches adjunctively at Dallas Christian College and Northwood University. Dr. Farley-Parker earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Baylor University in Political Science. She holds Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She lives in Keller with her husband, their young son, and their cat Stanley.
INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty is expected, and integrity is valued in the Dallas County Community Colleges. 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.

ADA Statement
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office at 972-860-8119.

Emergency Alert
Sign up for DCCCD Emergency Alerts to receive a text-message, email and/or phone call when there is an unscheduled evacuation or closure of a DCCCD campus or office because of weather closures, utility outages, police or other emergencies. Subscribing is free, but standard text message charges from your cell phone provider will apply. Please refer to: http://www.dcccd.edu/current%20students/student%20service\s/emergalerts/Pages/default.aspx

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.

Health Center Services
Basic first aid for minor cuts, scrapes, insect stings, and heat, etc.
- Over-the-counter medications for headaches, fever, seasonal allergies, and colds
- Over-the-counter medications for mild allergic reactions
- Emergency sanitary pads
- Blood Pressure check
- Coordination with outside health agencies such as Carter Blood Care; Dallas County Health Dept. (HIV/STD testing--free, twice a semester); UT Southwestern mobile mammography; Immunizations once a month for children <19 y.o. from the DCDHHS; Agape Massage; and Employee Wellness Screening
- Rest area for stress relief, migraine headaches, post seizure activity
- AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for CPR
- Confidential "talks"
- Assists with health related club activities when asked and time permits
Honors Credit Availability  You can earn Honors Credit in this course that will show the completion of an Honors Course on your transcript. Honors credit is important in transfer evaluation for graduation with both Associates and Bachelor degrees with honors. To gain Honors credit for this course you will need to:

1. Demonstrate advanced writing skills through synthesis and original thought in expanded writing projects, research papers, and critical essays.
2. Participate in an outside class activity by attending a lecture, exhibit, or program outside of the class activities

To qualify for Honors credit, you must contact me within the first three (3) weeks of the semester. The Honors assignment due date will be determined by the professor and will be no later than one week prior to the due date for the final exam. Finally, you must earn an A or B in the course in order to receive Honors Credit.

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.

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. This class may not be repeated for the third or subsequent time without paying the additional tuition. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the fall 2002 semester. More information is available at: https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oepthird_attempt.cfm

Student Code of Conduct  As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published in the DCCCD Catalog. More information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat1011/cattoc.cfm.

Note, in addition, that committing an act of academic dishonesty will result in failing this course regardless of the total points earned under the evaluation criteria. Cheating includes: (1) copying from another student’s paper; (2) using unauthorized materials during a test; (3) collaborating with or seeking help from another student during a test or quiz or during the grading of a quiz; (3) collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test (3) buying, selling, stealing or soliciting any part of or a whole test; (4) transporting or removing part of or a whole test before it is administered; and (5) other violations specified in the Student Code of Conduct.
Plagiarism is the appropriating, buying receiving as a gift or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own written work. Students must be CAUTIOUS when using material from books, magazine, or even the Internet to cite the source of information. On any essays, reports or research papers, the student MUST offer proper citations for information quoted or included from another printed or Internet source. Failure to do so is a violation of this policy and will result in failing the course. Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. Any collusion in preparation of essays or reports assigned for this class is a violation of this policy. Students are allowed to discuss their assignments and should freely do so. Copying, duplicating, or completing work for another student, however, is collusion and a violation of this policy.

The Student Code of Conduct is applicable to all activities related to this course.

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 six 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 six 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. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedops.

Tutoring Services

We have a tutoring center for all students that you can access by appointment or even on a drop-in basis. Open times are posted at the Center in Building C on the second floor.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.