COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Kurt M. Friederich, M. Div., D. Min.
PHONE: 214-860-2337 (Division phone number)
EMAIL: kfriederich@dcccd.edu

COURSE TITLE: MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

COURSE IDENTIFICATION: PHILOSOPHY (PHIL) 1304, SEC 5002, SYN 773839
Fall 2012 Semester, This is a 3 credit hour core course.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Fall 2012—Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 10:50am
following the 2012 Fall Term Calendar and course schedule

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 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. Students are required to have demonstrated college-level “reading, writing and/or math skills” prior to enrolling in academic transfer courses.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

☐ To examine briefly the history of each of the major religions of the world
☐ To demonstrate knowledge of the dominant characteristics of some of the world’s major religious traditions
☐ To examine the similarities and differences of belief among these major world religions
☐ To critically assess the impact on society of religious worldviews

METHOD OF ASSESSING COURSE OUTCOMES: Students enrolled in this course are expected to and will be graded on their ability to show that they have:

1. read the assigned reading from the required text books and are prepared to discuss the subject matter during the class period.
2. completed and turned in a “Chapter Review” for each major world religion or grouping of religions (7) as stated in the Course Outline/Schedule. The Chapter Review will be handed out during the chapter discussion and be due to the instructor at the class one week following or following the Course Schedule. [Subject to the term calendar.] The Chapter Review will be based upon the readings from the two required texts, class lectures, and class discussions.

3. completed and turned in five (5) one-page papers that reflect upon five of the major world religions discussed in the texts. Students will be allowed to choose the five world religions for these papers provided they are ones discussed in the text. A Trial Paper will be due on Thursday, October 11th, 2012 but will not be graded. Papers may be turned in through out the semester but all papers are due Tuesday, December 11th, 2012 at the end of the class time. No papers will be accepted after this time. The instructor will hand out a guide for these papers during the first week of class.

All assignments must be turned in by the end of class on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 to receive any credit.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

[Referred to as WR in the Course Syllabus]

[Referred to as TWW in the Course Syllabus]

COURSE DROP PROCEDURE: If you are unable to complete this course for which you have registered, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally from the course. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by the official drop date for this course. Failure to drop will result in a performance grade, usually a grade of “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. For more information about drop deadlines, refer to the current printed Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions office at 214-860-2484 (A169), or contact the division office. The last day to drop with an automatic “W” for spring 2012 is Thursday, November 15th, 2012 at 7PM. See Stop Before You Drop information.

STOP BEFORE YOU DROP: For students who reenrolled 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. The El Centro 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 Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: http://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop

COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY: The nature of this course requires student attendance at all scheduled classes. Students seeking an excuse for an absence because of illness should bring documentation by a health
care provider stating why they should not have been in class. Other excused absences will be up to the judgment of the instructor. For every two (2) unexcused absences from regularly scheduled classes .5 will be deducted from the student’s course grade. For every two (2) times a student is tardy to class .25 will be deducted from the student’s course grade. The instructor reserves the right to determine tardiness.

COURSE GRADING POLICY: There will be NO exams in this course. Student’s grades will be based upon the following formula:

1. **10%** on reading and preparation for class discussion.

2. **45%** on completion of 7 “Chapter Reviews” handed out by the instructor.

3. **45%** on completion of 5 one-page papers on student-chosen world religions (5) from the course. *A trial paper is due on Thursday, March 8th, 2012.*

**Students are advised that strict adherence to the El Centro College Student Code of Conduct with regard to plagiarism, collusion, and cheating will be enforced with no exception.**

ACADEMIC ETHICS STATEMENT: Any violation of the Student Code of Conduct (as printed in the El Centro College Catalog and available at http://www.elcentrocollege.edu) will be penalized accordingly. All matters of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, cheating, etc.) will result in a failing grade for the assignment in question. All violations will be forwarded to the proper college authorities for review. The college may, at its discretion, impose additional penalties on the student including academic probation, suspension, or expulsion. ANY form of disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

COURSE DISCLAIMER REGARDING SYLLABUS ADJUSTMENT: The instructor reserves the right to modify dates for class presentations, testing as well as assignment due dates if unforeseen circumstances cause such a need for the adjustment. Students will be notified of changes in writing.

CORE CURRICULUM INTELLECTUAL COMPETENCIES: Major World Religions is a core course requiring that students exhibit the following 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. Speaking: the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion and audience – above 12th grade level.

4. Listening: the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication and possess sufficient literary skills of writing and reading - above 12th grade level.

5. Critical Thinking: the ability to think and analyze at a critical level.
CORE CURRICULUM EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:  Major World Religions is a core course challenging students with the following Exemplary Educational Objectives:

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

2. To understand those works as expression of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

3. To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

4. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

6. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:  If you are student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disabilities Services Office at 214-860-2411 (Voice/TTY), visit A130, or go to http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/Student_Services/Disability/

HONORS OPTION:  Students have the option of requesting to take this Major World Religion course with honors.  Students desiring to exercise the Honors Option must submit a written request to be considered to the professor.  Along with the written request students must provide proof of prior academic achievement of nothing less than a B+ average.  Students accepted into the honors track of this course will need to meet the following course objectives in order to receive credit:

a) Complete all course requirements with nothing less than a grade of B+/A-.  
b) Meet as a group with the professor no less than twice during the semester.  
c) Write a five (5) page research paper comparing two of the major religions studied in the course.

FINANCIAL AID STATEMENT:  Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office, phone number 214-860-2096 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.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS STATEMENT: A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence if, not later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student notified the instructor of each class scheduled on the date that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.  A “religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempted from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.  The notice shall be in writing and shall be delivered by the student personally to the instructor, with receipt acknowledged and dated by the instructor or be sent certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the instructor.  A student who is excused under this section may not be penalized for the absence, but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily complete the assignment or examination.
CHILDREN ON CAMPUS: El Centro College recognizes the need to provide for the safety and security of minor children under the age of sixteen (16) present on campus; yet, at the same time, the college also recognizes the need to maintain for all students maximum access to programs, services, and facilities, and an environment conducive to learning. Therefore, the presence of children at El Centro College will be governed by the following guidelines:

- No individual under the age of 16 shall be allowed access to any college facility above the second floor of the “A” building or above the first floor of the “B” and “C” buildings, unless that individual is participating in a program sponsored by the college.
- Minor children will not be allowed in the Student Center unless their parents or guardians are conducting college business if the following offices: Financial Aid, Student Programs and Resources, Workforce, Special services or the Middle College.
- Minor children will not be permitted in the Library, College Computer Center, Learning Center or Testing Center at any time!
- Minor children who are present on campus in the authorized areas must be under the direct supervision and control of their parent or guardian at all times.
- Disruptions resulting from the presence of any minor child on campus will result in the student being asked to leave the campus along with the minor child.
- Students who are in violation of this police will be referred to the Campus Police and issued a warning citation (information pertaining to available child care resources will also be given to the student at that time. A second occurrence will result in the student’s suspension form El Centro College until child care services can be arranged.
- Information will be provided by the Adult Resource Center (CM10) to assist students in locating affordable child care services.

CLASSROOM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS: All students are required to practice courteous, respectful, cooperative behavior at all times, as this would be the norm in any higher education or work environment. All students are expected to respect any differences of opinion from those of other students particularly as it pertains to religion. All students are expected to leave their religious preferences outside of the classroom and be open to respectfully learn about the religions of the world we all live in. Additionally to avoid distractions in the classroom, students will:

- Arrive on time and stay until class is dismissed
- Be prepared and stay on task
- Leave all food, drink, candy, and gum outside the classroom
- Place book bags, etc. under desks or areas out of aisles
- Listen courteously to one speaker at a time, with no interruptions and no side conversations
- Work to respect other student’s points of view

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES: Students are expected to follow established procedures of the appropriate division in handling academic issues, such as grade appeals. El Centro College requires that other complaints and disputes (that cannot be resolved by the persons directly involved) be referred initially to the Ombudsman Office (B302) for informal, confidential resolution. Additional grievance procedures and the Student Code of Conduct are outlined in the El Centro College Catalog, available in hard copy in advisement or on the web at http://www.elcentrocollege.edu.
CELL PHONE/PAGER POLICY: Students are required to turn off all cell phones and pagers prior to the entering of the classroom at the beginning of class. Students unwilling to conform to this policy will be required to leave the classroom and counted as absent.

#21. ACCESSING ECAMPUS
HOW DO I LOGIN TO ECAMPUS?

ECampus is the web interface used to access Internet-based distance education courses. Some traditional on-campus classes will have supplemental information posted on eCampus. The instructor will inform you if an eCampus site exists for your course.

Go to http://ecampus.dcccd.edu and press “Click here to login”. Type in your Student ID# with a lower case “e” in front of the number. This is used for both the Username and the Password. Please change your Password after your initial login.

Example:

Username: e3456789
Password: e3456789

If you still cannot login, here are a few tips that may help you gain access:

1. Use Internet Explorer 6.0 or Netscape 7.0 or higher
2. Have all JAVA script settings enabled in your browser
3. Set your browser to accept all cookies

If you are unsure how to do any of these things, or you still cannot login, please contact us at ecampus.support@dcccd.edu or call 972-669-6402.

#22. ACCESSING ECONNECT
HOW DO I LOGIN TO ECONNECT?

EConnect is the web interface that provides online student services which allows students to search, register, and pay for credit classes, view final grades and financial aid status.

Go to this address: http://econnect.dcccd.edu/econnect/st/stmenu.html

Check to see if you are eligible to use eConnect: http://econnect.dcccd.edu/econnect/st/stsroexp.html

Login using the “Login” link at the top right of the main page or go to this address: https://econnect.dcccd.edu/servlet/com/datatel.server.servlets.webadvisor.WebAdvisor?ACTION=Login

Your USERID is your student ID Number, which is 7 digits long, often called the Colleague ID number of CID. It is printed on your college ID Card. Your password, at least initially, is your date of birth. Example: 04049 for April 4, 1979. After you log in to eConnect for the first time, you will be required to change your password. If you are a returning user and cannot remember your password, you can be reminded of it by selecting “Show My Password Hint” on the log in screen or, if you have an email address in the system, reset it by selecting “Forgot My Password”. Please contact your Admission office if you are unable to locate your Student ID#, have forgotten your password or if the system does not recognize you.
You MUST have an email address on file with the College to access eConnect. You may use a DCCCD email address, which is free if you are eligible, or you may use a commercial email address. To be eligible you must be a credit student, or a continuing education (CE) student enrolled in a credit class, and you must be currently enrolled with a tuition payment posted to your account. (If you are not eligible, check out this site: http://www.emailaddresses.com/ which may help you find a free email service.)

If you have a question, contact eConnect@dcccd.edu

#23. COMPUTER USE POLICY  (www1.dcccd.edu/cat0406/ss/computer/cfm)
PURPOSE OF COMPUTER USE POLICY

The District is committed to providing an educational and work climate that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, the District encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. The District also strives to protect the rights and to enhance the self-esteem of all its members. Faculty, staff, and students should be aware that any form of illegal harassment or discrimination against any individual is inconsistent with the values and ideals of our community.

As an institution of higher education, the District encourages, supports and protects First Amendment rights and an open environment to pursue scholarly inquiry and to share information. Access to networked computer information in general and to the Internet in particular supports the academic community by providing a link to electronic information in a variety of formats and covering all academic disciplines. As with any resource, it is possible to misuse computing resources and facilities and to abuse access to the Internet. The following statements address, in general terms, the District’s policies concerning computer use.

The Chancellor is authorized to promulgate policies and procedures to implement this policy. [Refer to the Business Procedures Manual for additional information.]

USE OF DISTRICT RESOURCES

Use of District computing resources and facilities requires that individual users act in compliance with District policies and procedures, and failure to comply may result in restriction or revocation of access to District resources. Computing “resources and facilities” include, but are not limited to, District-and College-owned host computer systems, networks, peripheral equipment (such as modems, terminals, and printers), computers and workstations, software, data sets, storage devices (such as CD-ROMs, hard and soft disks, and the like), and all computer communications controlled, administered, or accessed directly or indirectly by the District or by any user.

The District provides users with an account that permits use of the computing resources and facilities within policies and procedures established by the District. Any person who uses District computing resources and facilities through District-owned equipment (such as public access computers at the libraries or computer labs) is also a user and is permitted to use the computing resources and facilities within policies and procedures established by the District.

Users must respect the integrity of computing resources and facilities, respect the rights of other users, and comply with all relevant laws (local, state, federal, and international), District policies and procedures, and contractual agreements. Employees who District computers or facilities must comply with the Texas Public Information Act and the Local Government Records Act as describe in CR(REGULATION). The District reserves the right to limit, restrict, or deny computing resources and facilities for those who violate District policies, procedures, or local, state or federal laws.
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Censorship is not compatible with the goals of the District. The District shall not limit adult users’ voluntary access to any information due to its content when it meets the standard of legality. A minor’s parent may permit a minor user to have voluntary access to any information that meets the standard of legality.

PRIVACY

The general right to privacy is extended to the electronic environment to the extent possible. Users have a lessened expectation of privacy when using computer resources and facilities owned by public institutions such as the District. Issuance of a password or other means of access is to ensure appropriate confidentiality of District files and information. It is not a guarantee of privacy not a license for abuse or improper use of the District’s computing resources and facilities. Privacy is mitigated by the Texas Public Information Act, administrative review, computer system administration, audits, and the nature of the electronic medium itself. Contents of electronic files will be examined or disclosed only when authorized by the user, approved by designated District officials, or required by law.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All used should be aware that property laws apply to the electronic environment. Users must abide by all software licenses, District copyright and software policies and procedures, and applicable federal and state law. Users should assume that works communicated through a network are subject to copyright unless specifically stated otherwise. Unless permission of the author is obtained, use of any electronically transmitted information must comply with the “fair use” principle found in federal copyright law and CR(REGULATION).

CRIMINAL AND ILLEGAL ACTS

Computing resources of the District, which include the hardware, software, and network environment, shall not be used for illegal activities. Any illegal use of these resources will be dealt with by the appropriate District authorities and/or other legal and law enforcement agencies. Criminal and illegal use my involved, but is not limited to: unauthorized access, intentional corruption or misuse of computing resources, theft, defamation, obscenity, child pornography, and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, age, religion, or sex.

AUTHORIZED USE

Computing resources are provided by the District to accomplish tasks related to the District’s mission. Some computers may be dedicated to specific enterprises or teaching mission that limit their use. Incidental personal use of computing resources is acceptable if the use:

1. Imposes no measurable cost on the District;
2. Is not harmful to the District;
3. Is not a hindrance to the daily operations of the District; and
4. Has no adverse effect upon an individual’s job or educational performance.
UNAUTHORIZED USE

Unauthorized use of the District’s computing services and facilities includes but is not limited to: illegal activities; failure to comply with laws, license agreements, and contracts governing network software and hardware use; abuse of communal resources; use of computing resources for unauthorized commercial purposes or personal gain; failure to protect the user’s password or use of the user’s account; breach of computer security, harmful access, or invasion of privacy; use of computing resources for anonymous or identity-masked messages to other District users; or unauthorized encryption. [Refer to the Business Procedures Manual for additional information.]

COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND COPYRIGHT LAW

The District respects the copyrights of others. With very few exceptions, all computer software and documentation is protected by federal copyright law. [See CR(REGULATION)] The unauthorized or unlicensed use, duplication, or copying of computer software or documentation is contrary to District policy and is a violation of the law. Violators of any copyright are subject to both civil and criminal penalties and/or disciplinary action. District regulations and procedures will establish guidelines for the use of computer resources and local area networks.

STUDENT HANDBOOK: The El Centro Student Handbook is on line at http://www.elcentrocollege.edu

DISCLAIMER: All information noted above is subject to change and where changes have been made in later editions of the Student Handbook they will supersede any of the information noted in this syllabus. Students are advised to consult the Student Handbook.
MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

INSTRUCTOR: Kurt M. Friederich, M. Div., D. Min.

PHILOSOPHY 1304, SEC 5002, SYN 773839

Fall 2012, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am-10:50am

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary with this course outline. Any changes will be announced to students at least 1 week in advance of the change.

Week 1

August 28, 2012
Lecture: Course Introduction
Syllabus Review
Assignment: Reading: WR-pgs. 8-15 & 244-49

August 30, 2012
Lecture/Discussion: Religion and Humans
Lecture/Discussion: Primitive-Primal Religion/practice
Assignment: Reading: WR-pgs. 231-43
Assignment: Chapter Review handed out

NOTE: WR=The Illustrated World's Religions-Smith
TWW=The World's Wisdom-Novak

Week 2

September 4, 2012
Lect/Disc: Primitive-Primal Religion/practice
Assignment: Chapter Review
Reading: TWW pgs. 354-379

September 6, 2012
Lect/Disc: Summary
Assignment: Chapter Review due
Reading: WR pgs. 16-39

Week 3

September 11, 2012
Lect/Disc: Hinduism
Assignment: Reading: WR pgs. 40-57

September 13, 2012
Lect/Disc: Hinduism:
Assignment: Chapter Review handed out
Reading: TWW pgs. 2-24

Week 4

September 18, 2012
Lect/Disc: Hinduism
Assignment: Chapter Review
Reading: TWW pgs. 24-48

September 20, 2012
Lect/Disc: Summary
Assignment: Chapter Review due
Reading: WR pgs. 58-76
Week 5

September 25, 2012
Lect/Disc: Buddhism
Assignment: Reading: WR pgs. 77-97

September 27, 2012
Lect/Disc: Buddhism
Assignment: Chapter Review handed out
Reading: TWW pgs. 50-77

Week 6

October 2, 2012
Lect/Disc: Buddhism
Assignment: Chapter Review
Reading: TWW pgs. 77-109

October 4, 2012
Lect/Disc: Summary
Assignment: Chapter Review due
Reading: WR pgs. 99-121
Reading: TWW pgs. 112-144

Week 7

October 9, 2012
Lect/Disc: Confucianism
Assignment: Reading: WR pgs. 122-143
Reading: TWW pgs. 145-174

October 11, 2012
Lect/Disc: Taoism
Assignment: Outside reading
Trial One-Page paper due

Week 8

October 16, 2012
Lect/Disc: Jainism, Sikhism, Shinto
Assignment: Chapter Review Handed out

October 18, 2012
Lect/Disc: Zoroastrianism
Assignment: Chapter Review

Week 9

October 23, 2012
Lect/Disc: Summary
Assignment: Chapter Review due
Reading: WR pgs. 178-191

October 25, 2012
Lect/Disc: Judaism
Assignment: Reading: WR pgs. 192-203

Week 10

October 30, 2012
Lect/Disc: Judaism
Assignment: Chapter Review handed out
Reading: TWW pgs. 175-201

November 1, 2012
Lect/Disc: Judaism
Assignment: Chapter Review
Reading: TWW pgs. 201-226
Week 11

November 6, 2012
Lect/Disc: Summary
Assignment: Chapter Review due
Reading: WR-pgs. 204-216

November 8, 2012
Lect/Disc: Christianity
Assignment: Reading: WR pgs. 217-229
Reading: TWW pgs. 227-253

Week 12

November 13, 2012
Lect/Disc: Christianity
Assignment: Chapter Review handed out
Reading: TWW pgs. 227-253

November 15, 2012
Lect/Disc: Christianity
Assignment: Chapter Review
Reading: TWW pgs. 253-279

Thursday, November 15, 2012
Withdraw date by 7:00PM

Week 13

November 20, 2012
Lect/Disc: Summary
Assignment: Chapter Review due
Reading: WR pgs. 144-159

November 22, 2012
Thanksgiving Holiday
No Class

Week 14

November 27, 2012
Lect/Disc: Islam
Assignment: Reading: WR pgs. 160-177

November 29, 2012
Lect/Disc: Islam
Assignment: Chapter Review handed out
Reading: TWW pgs. 281-311

Week 15

December 4, 2012
Lect/Disc: Islam
Assignment: Reading: TWW pgs. 312-332

December 6, 2012
Lect/Disc: Summary
Assignment: Chapter Review due

Finals Week

December 11, 2012
Final Discussion/Wrap up
All papers due at or before end of class
No Final Test!