Major Religions of the World

Richland College  Instructor Information:
Dallas, TX  Instructor: Jon Ewing
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Fall, 2012  Office hours: M-R 200-300pm

Course Information:
PHIL 1304.8002  Credit hours: (3)
Class meets: Uvalde U102, MWF 1010am—1105am

Required Texts:
- Holy Bible (there is an on-line version in External Links in your eCampus site)
- Holy Qur’an (there is an on-line version in External Links in your eCampus site)

Course Description:
This course surveys the major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In our study, we will emphasize belief system, history and contemporary practice. Students are encouraged to explore religious traditions outside of the major systems presented in the class.

Course Prerequisites:
Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Purpose of the Course:
In this course we will undertake a broad examination of certain of the world’s major religious traditions. The course will focus particular attention upon the world-view that serves to shape each tradition, with emphasis placed upon selected primary sacred texts which support their respective religious systems.
While there are far too many active religious traditions in the world today to allow a comprehensive survey of all of them to be undertaken in a single course, we will focus our attention upon seven of the most prominent traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
Course Objectives (Things you will take with you from this class if you apply yourself):

1. Identify the major religious traditions of the world and describe some of their predominant characteristics.
2. Identify and grasp certain general phenomena that are common to religions.
3. Familiarize yourself with a specific contemporary religious tradition and describe its identifying characteristics.

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies:
PHIL 1304 satisfies the following Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

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 adapted to purpose, occasion and audience – above 12th grade level.
4. **Listening**: the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading – above 12th grade level.
5. **Critical Thinking**: the ability to think and analyze at a critical level.

Exemplary Educational Objectives:
PHIL 1304, as part of the Core Curriculum, satisfies the following Exemplary Educational Objectives set forth by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an 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.
5. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:
- Attendance, Class Participation: 15%
- Journals: 15%
- Reading Quizzes: 20%
- Worship Center Visit: 25%
- Final Paper/Project: 25%

Grading Scale:
A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below.
1. Attendance, Class Participation, & Journals

According to school guidelines, attendance is mandatory for you to receive credit for the course. This is because there is simply no way to recreate portions of this course, particularly class lectures and group discussions/reports. If you arrive after attendance is taken, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are not marked absent. You are permitted three unexcused/excused absences without a penalty. After that, you suffer the consequences, since your final grade may drop significantly for absences beyond this maximum. After the withdrawal date, excessive absences may result in a failing grade in the course. Please come to class and be on time. **Three tardies will equal one absence.** If you leave class early, without prior notification, this will be considered a tardy.

If you simply have to miss class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you get the notes from another student on what you missed during a class, and to keep up with the required reading. Remember: your absence is not an excuse for turning in an assignment late and/or missing a reading quiz. If you are out sick or have another emergency, please do not wait to contact me until you return to class.

This is a college level course. I assume that you will be prepared for each session. Your Class Participation grade will be based in part on how you interact with me, the Instructor, as well as with your co-students.

**On Journals:** It will take me a little while to get to know each of you. However, in order to speed this process along, it is helpful for me to know a bit about you. This assignment will be completed by the student on the eCampus site for the course. You will be graded on the quality of your journal entries, as opposed to quantity. I want you to write down some reflections on the content of the class, the work you are doing in the class, and on the reading/assignments I have assigned. Failure to turn in a journal at the appointed times will lower your overall grade.

2. Reading Quizzes

There will be four quizzes on several of your assigned readings. Thus, you are encouraged to be present in order to complete each quiz on the date listed in the course calendar. **Unless discussed with me ahead of time, there are no make-ups on any of the quizzes. If something comes up, do not fail to contact me.**

3. Worship Center Visit

During the semester, your group will be required to visit a public Worship Center for one of the faith traditions covered in this course. I will provide you with a list of Dallas area suggested locations, although you may choose your own as long as this is approved by me. You must make your own arrangements for the visit. 1) After your visit, each person in the group will be responsible for turning in a typed report of approximately 1-2 pages which gives details of the visit and further information about the religious tradition represented. 2. Your group will make a short in-class presentation (10-15mins. maximum) on your visit experience for the benefit of the rest of the class.

4. Final Paper/Project

Instead of a Final Exam, you will have the choice of either writing a final research paper (3-4pp) in which you will examine a particular religious tradition; or composing a media project [e.g., Powerpoint photo essay, video, art work, poetry, etc.] I am flexible if you want to be creative. Remember that this constitutes one fourth of your final grade. **The due date for the Final Project is 5pm Friday, Dec 7, no exceptions.**
WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS ON THE FINALS WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM ME, AND THEN ONLY WITH A VALID EXCUSE.

Plagiarism [e.g., copying from a book, website, or from another student’s work and presenting this as your own work] will not be tolerated. If you are caught [and I will catch you], you will receive a 0 on the Final Project and your overall grade for the course will be seriously affected. If you are not clear as to what constitutes Plagiarism, please ask me after class and I will clarify this for you.

Ground Rules and Expectations:
• This class is intended to be interactive. Let us attempt to carry out our class discussions in a respectful manner. However, if you ever feel uncomfortable with the in-class discussions, it will be important for you to communicate and share your concerns with me.
• Electronic devices [cell phones, iphones, laptops, etc., are not to be on during class
• It's always best to keep me posted. If you have a concern about a deadline, or if you're having problems, please contact me by email, office phone, and/or visit me during my posted office hours. I am reasonably sympathetic, except in the case of laziness and/or negligence.

Office Hours:
Please visit me during my office hours from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. [WH-138]

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

• Academic progress: Please take the initiative to discuss academic goals and degree completion [where we are able] with the Instructors. However, advising is available throughout the semester. Check 7Steps2Success for more details.

• Emergency Operations Procedures
Richland College and the Dallas County Community College District have developed policies and procedures for dealing with emergencies that may occur on campus.
To familiarize yourself with these procedures, please take time to watch the overview video: http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv
The complete Emergency Operations Plan can be viewed and printed at the following website: http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/emergency
If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Richland College Office of Emergency Management. This office can be reached by phone (972/238-3794) or by e-mail (rlcoem@dcccd.edu).
### Institution Policies

| **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. For more information, you may access [https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop](https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop). |
| **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, Nov. 15. 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. For more information about drop deadlines, refer to the current printed Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions/Student Records office at 972-238-6100 or 6101 (Thunderduck Hall, T170), or contact the division office. |
| **Repeating a 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. [See Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at](http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/) |
| **Financial Aid** | If you are receiving any form of financial aid, you 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. |
| **Academic Honesty** | 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 DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published in the DCCCD Catalog at [http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm](http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm) (Select Purpose) |
| **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 972-238-6180 (Voice/TTY), visit Thunderduck Hall, suite T120, or go to [http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/](http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/) (CTRL + Click to access “Current Students” site to “Student Services” to “Disability Services”) |
| **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 contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence. |
| **Food, drink, cell phones, etiquette, etc.** | As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Student Code of Conduct published in the Richland College and DCCCD catalogs and can also be found online at [http://www.dcccd.edu/cat0102/conduct/htm](http://www.dcccd.edu/cat0102/conduct/htm) |