Course Description
The Texas Common Course Number is PHIL 1304.
Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or 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. (3 Lec.)
Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 3802015212

Required Text

Exemplary Educational Objectives in Philosophy/Religion
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 and 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 Objectives/Learning Outcomes:
COMPENTENCIES FOR PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION COURSES

Reading: Students will be asked to read from philosophy and religion textbooks written for students reading at the 12th grade level or above. Students may be asked to read some short passages from primary sources. Student achievement will be measured by such methods as exams, quizzes, and in-class discussion of the material.
**Writing:** Students will be given opportunities to write essays and papers about philosophical and religious issues. The student’s progress in improving academic writing will be communicated by such methods as instructor remarks written on papers and individual student conferences.

**Speaking:** Students are expected to participate in such speaking activities as class discussions, small group discussions, and class presentations. The instructor will evaluate their speaking skills.

**Listening:** Students will enhance their listening skills by practicing speaking one at a time and attending to the speaker. Students may be asked to summarize or repeat an argument they have just heard.

**Critical Thinking:** Students’ writing and class participation will be evaluated continually by such criteria as clarity, consistency, coherence, comprehensiveness, compatibility, and fairness in thought and expression.

**Scope and Variety in Philosophy and Religion:** By studying a wide range of ideas, purported by different historical periods, ages, and cultures, the student will demonstrate through written and spoken work an awareness of the scope and variety of issues and ideas studied in philosophy and religion. Some non-western ideas may be presented and discussed.

**Expressions of Individual and Human Values within a Social and Historical Context:** In class ideas will generally be presented within a historical, cultural, and social context, so students can understand why and how the ideas emerged. Students will be encouraged, in class discussions and in written work, to relate the ideas studied in philosophy and religion to ideas studied in other courses (e.g., literature, psychology, history, etc.).

**Critical Response:** Students will practice, in speech and writing, giving reasoned, critical responses to the ideas and theories presented. Unsupported statements of likes or dislikes will be treated as seminal material by the instructor for the development of a reasoned, critical response to a theory, idea, or religion.

**Informed Personal Reaction:** Students will be encouraged by the instructor to personalize the material studied and to react to it. The instructor, however, may ask students to support reactions by such means as the use of logic, reason, and bibliographical research.

**Influence of Philosophy/Religion on Intellectual Experiences:** Through such means as written papers and exams, class participation and discussions, oral presentations, and small group activities, students will relate the ideas and theories studied in religion and philosophy to various related intellectual experiences.

**THE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Philosophy/Religion Department at Richland College is to provide to students and teachers alike interactive and cooperative learning environments in which they may examine ideas related to their cultural, philosophical, and religious heritages. The Department further strives to develop skills in analysis and evaluation of arguments and the ability to write and to speak clearly about philosophic and religious issues, which
pertain to values, knowledge, reality, human nature, and God. The Department aims at translating these skills into considered actions in the lives of those involved and into reasoned interactions with the greater global community.

**Evaluation/Requirements**

A. You are expected to read all of the **assigned readings** carefully. Careful reading involves working out your own understanding of the material and your own list of issues and questions that need to be addressed in order to evaluate the readings. You will have many opportunities to discuss issues related to the readings in the class. **Class participation** is an integral part of the course.

B. **Quizzes.**
   There will be six quizzes during the semester. They will cover terms and concepts from the reading assignments. Find them under the Quiz tab.

C. **Discussion Groups.**
   You are required to participate in six discussion groups. Find specific instructions under the Discussion Groups tab.

D. **Online Field Trip.**
   Write a report on an online site visit. Find the instructions for this under the Assignments tab.

E. **Observation Project/Site Visit.**
   The site visit (a site you visit in person, not an internet site) paper is to be 2-3 pages in length, with 1" margins on all sides, double spaced, using Times/Times New Roman (12 point). The paper should include your own personal reactions and thoughts. A good site visit paper will show evidence that the author reflected extensively on the course material. Opinions and ideas should be thoughtful, comprehensive, creative, and/or insightful. You will provide depth to the paper by providing such things as specific examples, multiple points of view, opposing points of view, analogies, comparisons, etc. Be sure to organize content so that ideas are grouped and sequenced logically. The content can include personal stories, things that have happened to you in relation to the course material, but, do not go overboard; there need to be opinions and conclusions based on those stories. In addition to the quality of your reflection, this assignment will be graded on such things as spelling, punctuation, grammar, word precision and style. Find the instructions for this under the Assignments tab.

**Course Grade**

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<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (40 pts each)</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Groups (100 pts each)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Field Trip</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Observation Project</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Grading Scale:**

A  900+
B  800-899
C  700-799
D  600-699
F  0-599
**Financial Aid Students**
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.

**Plagiarism Policy**
The writing assignments for this class are to be written in your own words and are to reflect your own thoughts. Accordingly, including any material other than your own work or quotes from a relevant source (properly cited) will constitute academic dishonesty and will result in a 0 for the assignment. Plagiarism is not just copying word for word from someone (without citation) but also taking the “ideas” of others without giving credit (in other words paraphrasing without giving credit is plagiarism too). Also, plagiarism doesn’t necessarily entail that the entire paper is taken from another source or sources but maybe only a portion of the paper. Please see the following college website that helps discern plagiarism from non-plagiarized material (this is a link that can be found on the Dallas County Community Website concerning plagiarism)...
http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html.

**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 (Select Purpose).

**Policies on Missed Tests/Assignments**
All work is due by 11:59pm on December 11th. No work will be accepted after that deadline. You will be graded on assignments completed by 11:59pm on December 11th. All writing assignments turned in late during the semester will receive a 5% penalty (writing assignments turned in after the semester [Dec. 11th] will not receive a grade).

**Emergency/Inclement Weather Procedure**
There are no inclement weather days for internet courses! Sorry.

**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. See Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/

**Student E-Mail**
Legal privacy issues prevent your instructor from discussing your work or your grades on commercial e-mail accounts. If you wish to send your papers as attachments to an e-mail (and the instructor permits it), or if you have a question about your grade, you must open a student e-mail account. The account is free. You may set it up by going to
www.dcccd.edu and click on Student Services, Online Services, and Student NetMail. All students receiving financial aid must open a student NetMail account.

**ADA Services**
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/ (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.

**Withdrawal Policy (drop date is November 15th)**
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 (semester’s drop date). 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.

**STOP BEFORE YOU DROP**
6Drop
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

**Campus Emergency Operation Plan**
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).
**Contingency Plan**
Richland College has developed an Instructional Contingency Plan for Temporary College Closing for On-Campus Courses. Please discuss this contingency plan with your instructor.

**Obtaining Your Grades at the End of the Semester**
Grade reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online or by telephone. Just use your student identification number when you log in to e-Connect or call DCCCD Touch Tone Services. Web site address: [http://econnect.dcccd.edu/](http://econnect.dcccd.edu/).
TelephoneNumber: 972-613-1818.

**Technical Support**
Anytime you have questions concerning eCampus, please contact the computer resource folks at eCampus: 972.669.6402 or use the following link: [http://d2.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8023](http://d2.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8023)

**Richland Library**
To contact the Richland Library use the following link or phone numbers: [http://www.richlandcollege.edu/library/](http://www.richlandcollege.edu/library/)
Reference: 972-238-6082, Circ: 972-238-6081

**Distance Learning Homepage**
The following link will take you to the distance learning homepage: [http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/dl/](http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/dl/)

**If the Course Site Becomes Unavailable Due to a Network Failure**
The instructor will continue to communicate with the class via email. Assignments and discussion group posts may be submitted via email directly to the instructor.

**Course Calendar**
08/27  Class Begins
08/27-08/31 Read Chapter 1 (WR)
08/31  Post Short Introduction on Discussion Board by 11:59 pm in order to get full credit on Classmate quiz
09/04  Classmate quiz available
09/07  Complete Classmate quiz by 11:59 pm
09/07  Online Field Trip Assignment due by 11:59 pm
09/10-09/14 Read Chapter 2 (WR) and pp. 9-40 in WW
09/10  Quiz 1 available (over WR chapter 1 and 2 and WW pp. 9-40)
09/12  Post answer to discussion group #1 by 11:59 pm
09/14  Post response to another student for discussion group #1 by 11:59 pm
09/17  Complete Quiz 1 by 11:59 pm
09/17-09/21 Read Chapter 3 (WR) and pp. 65-82, 95-99, 106-109 in WW
09/17  Quiz 2 available (over Buddhism)
09/21  Complete Quiz 2 by 11:59 pm
09/26  Post answer to discussion group #2 by 11:59 pm
09/28  Post response to another student for discussion group #2 by 11:59 pm
10/01-10/05 Read Chapter 4 (WR) and 111-134 in WW
10/01  Quiz 3 available (over Confucianism and Taoism)
10/08-10/12 Read Chapter 5 (WR) and 145-164 in WW
10/10  Post answer to discussion group #3 by 11:59 pm
10/12  Post response to another student for discussion group #3 by 11:59 pm
10/12 Complete Quiz 3 by 11:59 pm
10/15-10/19 Read Chapter 6 (WR) and 281-311
10/15 Quiz 4 Available (Islam)
10/19 Complete Quiz 4 by 11:59
10/24 Post answer to discussion group #4 by 11:59 pm
10/26 Post response to another student for discussion group #4 by 11:59 pm
10/29-11/02 Read Chapter 7 (WR) and 175-188, 194-210, 213-218
10/29 Quiz 5 Available (Judaism)
11/02 Complete Quiz 5 by 11:59 pm
11/07 Post response to discussion group #5 by 11:59 pm
11/09 Post response to another student for discussion group #5 by 11:59 pm
11/12-11/16 Read Chapter 8 (WR) and 227-249, 253-264
11/12 Quiz 6 Available (Christianity)
11/16 Complete Quiz 6 by 11:59 pm
11/28 Post answer to discussion group #6 by 11:59 pm
11/30 Post response to another student for discussion group #6 by 11:59 pm
12/07 Observation Project Assignment due by 11:59 pm
12/11 Course Ends at 11:59 pm (All Work Must Be Turned In By That Time!)

Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.