Major Religions of the World

Richland College
Dallas, TX
Division: Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts
972-238-6250
Fall 2012

Instructor Information:
Instructor: Gina Alexander
Phone: 972-238-6140 (ACCESS)
email: galexander@dcccd.edu
Office: None
Office hours: by Appointment

Course Information:
PHIL 1304.8402; 9014
Credit hours: (3)
Class meets: On-line, eCampus site

Required Text:

Optional Texts:

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:

- Discussions & Journals: 35%
- Online Field Trip: 10%
- Reading Quizzes: 30%
- Worship Center Visit: 25%

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below.

1. **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. Thus, every student will be expected to make personal journal entries during the semester. Things to include are: Name, Number of Semesters enrolled in college, Major Field, Other Religion or Philosophy courses you have had, Home Town, Reason you chose to take
this class, Career goals, etc. 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. **Specific instructions will be given with each Journal Entry assignment.** Failure to turn in a journal at the appointed times will lower your overall grade.

2. **Discussion Board**
   The purpose of the Student Discussion Group is to allow for student interaction and to provide an opportunity for the student to demonstrate his/her knowledge and understanding of the reading assignments. In addition, you are required to post a 'critical response' to another student's posted answer. More information is included in the Discussion Instructions in the Course Menu.

3. **Online Field Trip**
   You will visit an online religious location and write a short report detailing your virtual tour. For more specific questions, please refer to the Online Field Trip in the Course Menu.

4. **Reading Quizzes**
   There will be seven quizzes on your assigned textbook readings. There will be no make-ups on quizzes. Thus, you are encouraged to complete each quiz by the deadline listed in the course calendar. All of the quizzes will be taken from the assigned readings.

5. **Worship Center Visit**
   During the semester, you 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 possible Dallas area suggestions, although you may choose your own as long as it is a public worship site. You must make your own arrangements for the visit. After your visit, you will be responsible for turning in a typed report which gives details of the visit and further information about the religious tradition represented. You will also be required to post a brief summary of your experience for the benefit of the rest of the class on the Discussion Board. **Plagiarism (e.g., copying from a book, another student and/or a website) will result in a 0 for this project, and will seriously affect the student’s final grade for the course.**

**Other Information:**
- **Late Work:** This is an online course with a set Course Calendar. As such, all quizzes and assignments are due as indicated on the Course Calendar. **These will not be accepted past the due date.**

- **Attendance Policy:** In order to be successful, students must attend and participate in enrolled courses.

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism [e.g., copying another’s work from a book, website, another student, etc.] and presenting it as your own **will not be tolerated. If you are caught, you will receive a zero (0) on the impacted assignment. If you are caught doing it a second time, your instructor has the right to give you an F in the course. If you have any questions on Plagiarism, please contact your instructor.
**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 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. For more information about drop deadlines, refer to the current Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions/Student Records office, or contact the division office.

**Academic Progress:** Students are encouraged to discuss goals and degree completion with their instructors. Specific advising is available throughout the semester. Check 7steps2Success for more details.

**Ground Rules and Expectations:**
- This class is intended to be interactive. Let us attempt to carry out our discussions in a respectful manner. However, if you ever feel uncomfortable with the online discussions, it will be important for you to communicate and share your concerns with me.
- 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 Hours:**
I do not have regular office hours; however, you may email me to set up an appointment as needed.

- The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.
Course Calendar:

Date Assignment Due **All times based on Central Time**

Aug 27-31 (Week 1)
Familiarize yourself with Course site: read the information from START HERE, SYLLABUS and FAQ

Sep 3-7 (Week 2)
Read: Molloy, pp3-32 (Understanding Religion)
Please look at Unit 1 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)

Sep 10-14 (Week 3)
Quiz #1 Available on Molloy, Chapter 1 (Understanding Religion)
Read: Genesis account of Creation (1st chapter) from the online version in Online Bible (or use your own Bible)
Read: Vedic accounts of creation (you can find these in COURSE DOCUMENTS)
Discussion Group Set 1 Questions Available

Sep 17-21 (Week 4)
Read: Molloy, pp75-123: (Hinduism)
Please look at Unit 2 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)
Journal Entry #1 Available
Sep 19 Post Discussion Group Set 1 by 11:59 pm
Sep 20 Complete Quiz #1 on Molloy, Chapter 1 by 11:59 pm

Sep 24-28 (Week 5)
Online Field Trip Available
Quiz #2 Available on Molloy, Chapter 3 (Hinduism)
Sep 26 Read: Molloy, pp125-87 (Buddhism)
Please look at Unit 3 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)
Sep 27 Post Journal Entry #1

Oct 1-5 (Week 6)
Discussion Group Set 2 Questions Available
Oct 2 Complete Quiz #2 on Molloy, Chapter 3 by 11:59 pm
Oct 3 Quiz #3 Available on Molloy, Chapter 4 (Buddhism)
Oct 5 Post Online Field Trip by 11:59 pm

Oct 8-12 (Week 7)
Read: Molloy, pp213-34: 'Taoism' (Chap. 6)
Please look at Unit 4 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)
Journal Entry #2 Available
Oct 10 Complete Quiz #3 on Molloy, Chapter 4 by 11:59 pm
Oct 11 Post Discussion Group Set 2 by 11:59 pm

Oct 15-19 (Week 8)
Read: Molloy, pp234-61 (Confucianism)
Please look at Unit 5 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)
Oct 16 Quiz #4 Available on Molloy, Chapter 6 (Taoism & Confucianism)
Oct 18 Post Journal Entry #2
Oct 22-26 (Week 9)
Discussion Group Set 3 Questions Available
Read: Molloy, pp289-341 (Judaism)
Please look at Unit 6 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)
Oct 25 Complete Quiz #4 on Molloy, Chapter 6 by 11:59 pm

Oct 29-Nov 2 (Week 10)
Quiz #5 Available on Molloy, Chapter 8 (Judaism)
Journal Entry #3 Available
Nov 1 Post Discussion Group Set 3 by 11:59 pm

Nov 5-9 (Week 11)
Read: Molloy, pp343-421 (Christianity)
Please look at Unit 7 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)
Nov 6 Complete Quiz #5 on Molloy, Chapter 8 by 11:59 pm
Nov 8 Post Journal Entry #3
Quiz #6 Available on Molloy, Chapter 9 (Christianity)

Nov 12-16 (Week 12)
Discussion Group Set 4 Questions Available
Read: Molloy, pp423-87 (Islam)
Please look at Unit 8 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)
Nov 15 Complete Quiz #6 on Molloy, Chapter 9

Nov 19-21 (Week 13)
Journal Entry #4 Available
Quiz #7 Available on Molloy, Chapter 10 (Islam)
Nov 21 Post Discussion Group Set 4 by 11:59 pm

Nov 26-30 (Week 14)
Nov 28 Complete Quiz #7 on Molloy, Chapter 10
Nov 29 Post Journal Entry #4

Dec 3-7 (Week 15)
Dec 7 Post Worship Site Observation Project by 11:59 pm
Dec 7 – Course Ends at 11:59 pm
**Institution Policies:**
See below or refer to the Richland College website at [www.richlandcollege.edu](http://www.richlandcollege.edu) or to [http://www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabusinfo/syllabiInformation.pdf](http://www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabusinfo/syllabiInformation.pdf)

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<tr>
<td><strong>Stop Before You Drop</strong></td>
<td><strong>6Drop</strong> 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 <a href="https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop">https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop</a></td>
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<td><strong>Withdrawal Policy</strong></td>
<td>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 the official drop date for this course (see Course Drop Date mentioned earlier in this syllabus). 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 school office.</td>
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<td><strong>Repeating a Course</strong></td>
<td>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 <a href="http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/">Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Financial Aid</strong></td>
<td>Failure to attend classes could result in loss of Financial Aid (FA). 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.</td>
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<td><strong>Academic Honesty</strong></td>
<td>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 <a href="http://www.richlandcollege.edu/conduct">http://www.richlandcollege.edu/conduct.</a></td>
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<td><strong>ADA Statement</strong></td>
<td>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 <a href="http://richlandcollege.edu.dso">http://richlandcollege.edu.dso.</a></td>
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<td><strong>Religious Holidays</strong></td>
<td>Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused if you inform your instructor at the beginning of the course. 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.</td>
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<td><strong>Campus Emergency</strong></td>
<td>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: <a href="http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv">http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv</a> ●The complete Emergency Operations Plan can be viewed and printed at the following website: <a href="http://www.richlandcollege.edu/emergency">http://www.richlandcollege.edu/emergency</a></td>
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<td><strong>Operation Plan</strong></td>
<td>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 (<a href="mailto:tlcoeem@dcccd.edu">tlcoeem@dcccd.edu</a>)</td>
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<td><strong>Contingency Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Contingency Plan:</strong> Richland College has developed an Instructional Contingency Plan for Temporary College Closing for On-Campus Courses. Please discuss this contingency plan with your instructor. For distance learning courses, your instructor will use email to contact students in the event of extended technology downtime. To assure work in the class continues, it is important for all students to have an accurate email address recorded in both eCampus and eConnect.</td>
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<td><strong>Classroom Policies:</strong></td>
<td>Food, drink, cell phones, etiquette, etc. Instructional staff are responsible for setting policy regarding use of food, drink and cell phones in each class they teach. Faculty will include a statement in course syllabi detailing their policy. Exceptions: This right does not extend to classrooms/areas with or near computers, lab materials, equipment, and/or college-owned books—these are restricted from food and drink.</td>
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