Major Religions of the World

Richland College
Dallas, TX
Division: Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts
972-238-6250
Flex Term 8/27/2012—10/19/2012

Instructor Information:
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Office hours: M-R 200-400pm

Course Information:
PHIL 1304.8420
Credit hours: (3)
Class meets: On-line, eCampus site

Required Texts:
- *Holy Bible* (there is an on-line version in Course Menu)
- *Holy Qur’an* (there is an on-line version in Course Menu)

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 Fieldtrip: 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**
   Journals help me to get to know you. It also helps you to reflect on the material we are covering in the course. There will be two Journal assignments for you to complete. Journals are located in the TOOLS section (scroll down and you should see Journals). Failure to turn in a journal at the appointed times will lower your overall grade.
2. Online Fieldtrip
   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 Fieldtrip tab in the Discussions area.

3. Reading Quizzes
   There will be brief quizzes on chapters from the Molloy textbook. 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 quiz questions will be taken from the assigned readings in the Course Calendar.

4. Worship Center Visit
   By the end of the flex-term semester, you will be required to visit a public Worship Site 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 this is approved by me. You must make your own arrangements for the visit. After your visit, you will be responsible for turning in a typed report of approximately 3-4 pages which gives details of the visit and further information about the religious tradition represented. **Plagiarism** (e.g., copying from a book and/or a website) **will result in a 0 for this project, and will seriously affect the student’s final grade for the course.**

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 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:
   My virtual office hours are MTWRF 2:00-4:00 p.m.

   • **Academic progress:** Please take the initiative to discuss academic goals and degree completion [where we are able] with the Instructor. However, advising is available throughout the semester. Check 7Steps2Success for more details.
   • The Instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.
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<td>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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| 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 (instructor inserts semester’s drop date here). 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, 11/15/12, 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/](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) |