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@dccc.edu
Office: None
Office hours: by Appointment

Course Information:
Course: PHIL 1304
Classroom: D143 Del Rio
Credit hours: (3)
Section: 8660
Time: M 7:05-8:25pm
On-line Component: 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:
- Journals - 4 (12.5 points each)
- Written Responses/Reflections – 2 Articles (25 points each)
- Class Attendance/Participation/Daily Work (100 points total)
- Online Field Trip (100 points)
- Reading Quizzes (300 points total)
- Worship Center Visit (250 points)
- Final Exam – Optional (see Final Exam below)

Final Course Grade Calculation:
All required assignments and activities including class attendance, participation and daily work are equal in weight and value. The final course grade will be determined by calculating the average of all grades.
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. Written Responses/Reflections – Articles
   Locate and read a current newspaper or magazine article about religion.
   Summarize the article and compose a personal reflection/response to the article.
   Compose a proper bibliographic entry for the article.

3. Class Attendance/Participation/Daily Work
   In order to be successful, students must attend and participate in enrolled courses.
   Due to the nature of this class, it is extremely important to make every effort to
   attend each class; however, as emergencies do happen, you may miss up to two
   classes without impacting your participation grade. Any absence after the two
   missed classes will reduce your participation grade by 5 points for each class
   missed. If you arrive after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to
   see the instructor after class to make sure you are not marked absence. Please note
   that three tardies will equal one absence. Class discussions, activities and any
   daily work will reflect on your participation grade so please come prepared for
   class. It is your responsibility if you missed a class to get the notes from another
   student on what you missed in class. Your absence does not exempt you from
   turning in your assignments on time. Please see below for information regarding
   late work.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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 present a short presentation of your experience to the rest of the class. 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.

7. Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative and may be used to replace a missed or low grade.

Other Information:

Late Work: All outside assignments are due at the beginning of the class as indicated on the Course Calendar. If work is completed during class, it will be due at the end of that class period or as indicated by your instructor. Work not turned in on the due date will lose 5 points per day with the exception of the Worship Center Visit which will lose 10 points per day. You may email an assignment to the instructor (make sure to copy yourself) if you will be absent on the date it is due or you may take it by the ACCESS office located in the Administration Building. Please ask them to date and initial it. Please note that for the online component of this course all assignments and quizzes are to be completed by the due date indicated on the Course Calendar. These will not be accepted past the due date.

Extra Credit: Extra credit will be offered at the instructor’s discretion. Extra credit will be added to your point total and averaged in with the rest of the grades.

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 talk to your instructor.

Classroom Electronics: Usage of cell phones (including texting), laptops, pagers, iPods, iTouch and any other electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom. Please turn off your cell phones before you come into the classroom. Text messaging is never allowed in the classroom and is considered a means of cheating during tests. If you are caught texting during test time, you will receive a zero (0) on the impacted test. Any cell phone, pager or texting violations (including answering the phone and leaving to talk) could result in a lowered participation grade.

Food and Drink Policy: Please see Food and Drink Agreement Contract.

Classroom Etiquette: It is expected that all students will participate in class discussions; however, these discussions must always be respectful in nature. You may not always agree with what you hear but I expect you to speak in a civil manner to the other students and the instructor in all interactions. Please speak to me outside of class if you have any concerns in this area.
**Class Concerns:** Please let the instructor know if you have any concerns about the class. This includes if you have a concern about a deadline. **It is best to contact me via email** or see me before or after class; however, you may also leave a message at the ACCESS center and they will forward it on to me. I will respond as soon as possible.

**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.

**Online 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 postings, it will be important for you to communicate and share your concerns with me.

**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.

**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)**  
Introduction to Course and Requirements  
Familiarize yourself with Course site: read the information from START HERE, SYLLABUS and FAQ  
Read: Molloy, pp3-32 (Understanding Religion)  
Please look at Unit 1 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)

**Sep 3-7 (Week 2)**  
No Class - Labor Day  
Quiz #1 Available on Molloy, Chapter 1 (Understanding Religion)  
Read: Molloy, pp35-73 (Indigenous Religions)  
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)

**Sep 10-14 (Week 3)**  
Understanding Religion  
Indigenous Religions  
Read: Molloy, pp75-123: (Hinduism)  
Please look at Unit 2 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)  
Sep 13 Complete Quiz #1 on Molloy, Chapter 1 by 11:59 pm

**Sep 17-21 (Week 4)**  
Hinduism  
Article #1 - Due 9/24  
Quiz #2 Available on Molloy, Chapter 3 (Hinduism)  
Journal Entry #1 Available

**Sep 24-28 (Week 5)**  
Hinduism  
Article #1 due at beginning of class  
Sep 26 Complete Quiz #2 on Molloy, Chapter 3 by 11:59 pm  
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)**  
Buddhism  
Quiz #3 Available on Molloy, Chapter 4 (Buddhism)  
Online Field Trip Available

**Oct 8-12 (Week 7)**  
Buddhism  
Read: Molloy, pp213-61: (Taoism & Confucianism)  
Please look at Units 4 & 5 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)  
Journal Entry #2 Available  
Oct 11 Complete Quiz #3 on Molloy, Chapter 4 by 11:59 pm  
Oct 12 Post Online Field Trip by 11:59 pm
Oct 15-19 (Week 8)
Taoism/Confucianism
Quiz #4 Available on Molloy, Chapter 6 (Taoism & Confucianism)
Read: Molloy, pp289-341 (Judaism)
Please look at Unit 6 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)
Oct 18 Post Journal Entry #2

Oct 22-26 (Week 9)
Judaism
Article #2 - Due 10/29
Quiz #5 Available on Molloy, Chapter 8 (Judaism)
Oct 24 Complete Quiz #4 on Molloy, Chapter 6 by 11:59 pm
Read: Molloy, pp343-421 (Christianity)
Please look at Unit 7 in COURSE DOCUMENTS (with Powerpoints)

Oct 29-Nov 2 (Week 10)
Christianity
Article #2 due at beginning of class
Worship Site Visit Project - Due 11/5
Journal Entry #3 Available
Nov 1 Complete Quiz #5 on Molloy, Chapter 8 by 11:59 pm

Nov 5-9 (Week 11)
Christianity
Worship Site Visit Project due at beginning of class
Quiz #6 Available on Molloy, Chapter 9 (Christianity)
Nov 8 Post Journal Entry #3

Nov 12-16 (Week 12)
Presentations
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)
Presentations
Islam
Quiz #7 Available on Molloy, Chapter 10 (Islam)

Nov 26-30 (Week 14)
Islam
Journal Entry #4 Available

Dec 3-7 (Week 15)
Course Wrap Up
Dec 5 Complete Quiz #7 on Molloy, Chapter 10
Dec 7 Post Journal Entry #4

December 10 – Final Exam
### 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>
<th>Institution Policies</th>
<th><a href="http://www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabusinfo/syllabiInformation.pdf">www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabusinfo/syllabiInformation.pdf</a></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stop Before You Drop</strong></td>
<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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<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 Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at <a href="http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/">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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| **Campus Emergency Operation Plan and Contingency 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](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.richlandcollege.edu/emergency](http://www.richlandcollege.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. 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. |
| **Classroom Policies:** Food, drink, cell phones, etiquette, etc. | 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. |
| **Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus** | The instructor reserves the right to amend a syllabus as necessary |