Syllabus for Philosophy 1304-9004: Major World Religions

Course Description
PHIL1304: Major World Religions Section 9004
Brookhaven College & Dallas Telecollege
Social Science Department
Fall 2012

Catalog Description: Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or must 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.

COORDINATING BOARD ACADEMIC APPROVAL NUMBER 3802015212

Instructor
Janet Jerrow, Ph.D.
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Required Materials
- Experiencing the World's Religions, Fifth Edition by Michael Molloy

  Students may purchase the textbook from Missouri Bookstore via Internet or telephone. MBS Online Bookstore: http://direct.mbsbooks.com/dcccd.htm. Respond to the prompts. You will need to know your course name and pay with a credit card.
  By Phone: 1-800-325-3252

  Students may also purchase this required text at the Follett Bookstore located on the Brookhaven College campus.

  The textbook is also available as an eTextbook at www.coursesmart.com, which allows for significant savings.

- Selected readings posted on eCampus course site

PHIL 1304 is included in the DCCCD Core Curriculum. This course provides students with the opportunity to develop the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking fundamental to all DCCCD Core Curriculum courses. It also provides students with the opportunity to achieve the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Exemplary Educational Objectives in the humanities and visual and performing arts.
Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC)
PHIL 1304 satisfies the following Core Curriculum 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 the 12th grade level.
2. Writing: the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience – above the 12th grade level.
3. Critical Thinking: think and analyze at a critical level.

Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO)
PHIL 1304, as part of the Core Curriculum, satisfies the following Exemplary Educational Objectives in the humanities and visual and performing arts 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.

PHIL 1304 Learning Outcomes
PHIL 1304 learning outcomes describe the goals for all PHIL 1304 courses at Brookhaven College. These outcomes address the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC) and the Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO) in the humanities and visual and performing arts.

Upon completion of PHIL 1304, students should be able to:

I. Describe the dominant characteristics of some of the world’s major religious traditions by writing an essay in which students identify and explain the key personages, scriptures, and beliefs of selected religious traditions.

II. Apply critical thinking by writing an essay in which students analyze the impact of selected religious worldviews on society.

III. Create an informed personal response to selected religious traditions by writing an essay in which students develop and defend their own personal response to selected religious traditions.

ADA Statement
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office.
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 the withdraw date of 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.

Financial Aid Recipients
If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date, September 10, 2012, by either e-mailing or contacting the instructor or logging on to eCampus. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid office (phone 972.860.4110). Changes in your enrollment level and/or failing grades may have adverse consequences.

Third Attempt
Effective for the Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third of 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.

Academic Dishonesty
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 Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Dallas County Community Colleges Catalog. https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm

Code of Conduct
The Brookhaven College Student Code of Conduct is published in the college catalog, in the Student Handbook, and on the Brookhaven College website: https://www1.dccd.edu/cat0406/ss/code/cfm?loc=2 All students are encouraged to read and become familiar with these campus policies.

Communication with Instructor
I try to review and grade all newly posted material at least once a day. Also, you can expect me to respond to your e-mails within 24-48 hours. Be aware that while this is my general and intended practice, it is subject to the changes and chances of life.

Technical Requirements and Support
PHIL 1304-9004 requires access to a computer, the Internet and email. The fastest way to get technical support with eCampus is to click the "Help" link at the very top of the eCampus screen and then "Submit a Ticket" or call 972-669-6402. Also alert the instructor concerning any technical problems.
Everything you need to know about the Dallas Community Colleges and distance education can be found at our website: http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/dl/

The eCampus Technical Support and Help Desk can be found at http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/dl/fac-support.aspx

Achieving Success in Your College Courses
Brookhaven College provides many free services to help students succeed in college. Academic advising, tutoring, career counseling, instructional computer labs with word processing software and Internet access, “Life Line” workshops, and the resources of the college library are all available to you.

Communications Lab
Brookhaven College’s Communication Lab in J 122 is available to all students. Web access and work processing are available, and the lab’s open hours are generous.

Retrieving Your Grade and eConnect
Grades may be checked on-line through eConnect or by visiting the Advising Center. Specific instructions for obtaining you grades can be found at http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/studentsvcs/grades/ Go to the Brookhaven College website and select A-Z and student services to learn about all their services.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING PROCEDURES

Method of Evaluation
The student’s course grade will be determined by completing the semester reading, participating in three online discussions, completing seven unit exams and one final exam (exams are multiple choice), completing a personal journal, and writing an essay. Grading will be as follows:

Grades will be based on a scale of 100 points, distributed as follows:  
Eight Exams = 40 points (5 points each)  
Three Discussions = 30 points (10 points each)  
Essay = 20 points  
Two Journal Entries = 10 points (5 points each)  

TOTAL = 100 points

Grade point distribution:

A = 90 – 100 points  
B = 80 – 89.5 points  
C = 70 – 79.5 points  
D = 60 – 69.5 points  
F = 59.5 or fewer points
1. EXAMS (40 points). There will be seven unit exams and one final exam. The exams will be worth 40% of your total grade (5% for each of the 8 exams).

2. DISCUSSIONS (30 points). There will be 3 discussions; each is worth 10 points. In order to receive credit for any one discussion, you must include a minimum of TWO posts: either 1) a thread and a response or 2) two responses. In addition, posts must be submitted by the discussion deadlines: Wednesday, September 12, 2012; Thursday, October 11, 2012; and Thursday, November 15, 2012.

3. ESSAY (20 points). There will be a 1500-word essay to write. Due date is Sunday, December 2, 2012.

4. JOURNAL ENTRIES (10 points). There will be two journal entries, each worth 5% of your final grade. These entries must be submitted by Sunday, December 9, 2012.

Syllabus/Course Modification
The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor and seeking clarification of any requirement that is not understood.

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES:
1. Review the Syllabus
2. Read all Course Information material
3. Introduce yourself to your classmates (found on Discussion Board)
4. Complete and submit the required Orientation
5. Submit any questions you have to Q&A board or e-mail your instructor: jjerrow@deccd.edu

NOTE: ALL READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS LISTED BELOW ARE REQUIRED.

*The essay and all discussions have strict due dates. They are indicated below in RED.

*All units have target dates, which are indicated below in BLUE. A target date is not a due date. Rather, it is the date by which you should aim to complete the unit to consider yourself on pace with the class.

UNIT 1: UNDERSTANDING RELIGION – Target Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2012
Objectives: After completing Unit 1, you should be able to identify: characteristics of religion; the notion of the sacred; symbolism; sources of religions; patterns among religions; approaches to the study of religion; critical issues.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 1
Take Test 1

DISCUSSION 1
Due date: Wednesday, September 12, 2012
UNIT 2: INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS – Target Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Objectives: After completing Unit 2, you should be able to identify the impact of the natural world upon human experience and religious understanding and explain the concepts of sacred time and space and how they impact indigenous religious practices.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 2
Take Test 2
Submit Journal Entry 1

UNIT 3: JUDAISM – Target Date: Thursday, October 4, 2012
Objectives: After completing Unit 3, you should be able to identify the key events of Jewish history; the Hebrew Bible; Rabbinical Judaism; the Holocaust; Jewish beliefs and practices; the events surrounding the founding of the state of Israel; the divisions within Judaism; the contributions of Judaism to world civilization.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 8
Holy Bible, Genesis chapters 1-4; 12-13; 15-18
Holy Bible, Exodus chapters 3; 11-12
Psalms 22; 23; 31; 32; 42; 137
Take Test 3

DISCUSSION 2
Due date: Thursday, October 11, 2012

UNIT 4: CHRISTIANITY – Target Date: Friday, October 19, 2012
Objectives: After completing Unit 4, you should be able to identify the important events in the life of Jesus; important teachings of Jesus; early Christian beliefs and history; the New Testament; basic differences among Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Protestantism; Christian practices; Christianity's impact upon art.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 9
Holy Bible, Gospel of Matthew chapters 1-6; 9; 13; 16-17; 26-28
Holy Bible, Gospel of John chapter 1:1-18
Holy Bible, Romans chapter 3:21-31
Holy Bible, I Corinthians chapter 15
Holy Bible, Colossians chapter 1:15-23
I John chapter 4
Take Test 4

UNIT 5: ISLAM – Target Date: Friday, November 2, 2012
Objectives: After completing Unit 5, you should be able to identify key events in the life of Muhammad; basic teachings of Muhammad; the essentials of Islam; Islam's historical development; the Sunni and Shiite divisions; Sufism; basic concepts of Islamic law and philosophy; examples of Islamic art.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 10 The Koran, surah 1
The Koran, surah 2: 190-193, 254-261
The Koran, surah 4: 1-10
The Koran, surah 5: 72-78
The Koran, surah 8: 55-65
The Koran, surah 9:1-6
UNIT 6: HINDUISM – Target Date: Friday, November 16, 2012
Objectives: After completing Unit 6, you should be able to describe the origins of Hinduism; the Vedic period; the Upanishads; the Bhagavad Gita; the caste system; Hindu belief concerning the stages and goals of life; yogas; the Trimurti; examples of Hindu art.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 3
The Rig Veda (read at least five hymns from any book - your choice)
Khandogya Upanishad: I, 1; II, 1
The Bhagavad Gita chapters 8 and 11
Take Test 6

UNIT 7: BUDDHISM – Target Date: Friday, November 30, 2012
Objectives: After completing Unit 7, you should be able to identify key events in the life of the Buddha; basic Buddhist teachings; early developments within Buddhism; basic differences among Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism; aspects of Buddhist ritual and art.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 4
Zen Koans (read at least 20 - your choice)
Take Test 7

Submit Journal Entry 2

Take Final Exam

ESSAY
Due date: Sunday, December 2, 2012

Last day to submit all tests, journals, essay and final exam: Sunday, December 9, 2012

ESSAY
Counting as 20 points of your final grade, you will write an essay that will demonstrate your knowledge of selected religious traditions, your ability to apply critical thinking skills about their impact on society, and your creativity in developing an informed personal response to these religions traditions.

The topic is the following: Unit 1 covers the elements that are thought to constitute a religion, and discussion 1 centers on what religion and philosophy have in common and how they differ. Please write a detailed, 1500-word essay that discusses why Buddhism and either Judaism or Islam may be considered both a religion and a philosophy. Remember to discuss briefly the differences between religion and philosophy as well as the elements that make up a religion. Be sure to include your informed opinion about how you would classify each tradition at the end of the essay.
To fulfill this assignment you will need to follow a few simple steps.

1. Use your own words, not those of other sources. Don’t use footnotes or refer to other sources.
2. Please check for typos and grammatical errors. An entry that is not long enough or contains too many typos (including poor grammar) will receive a reduced grade.
3. Use Times New Roman 12-point font and double spacing in a Microsoft Word document.
4. If you plagiarize, do not follow the above directions, or fail to submit the essay by Sunday, December 2, 2012, you will receive a grade of 0. No late essays will be accepted.

Please note that your essay must be submitted via eCampus and will be checked by an anti-plagiarism program (SafeAssign). If any part of your essay is plagiarized, it will receive a grade of 0.

JOURNALS
Counting as 10 points of your grade (5 points for each entry), you are required to keep a journal throughout this semester. Keeping a journal allows you the opportunity to think through your own views of the spiritual, or religious, as we discuss the world’s major religions in class.

Though this assignment will be graded, the grade will be determined by how well you follow the assignment, not on what you share in the journal itself. Also, because the content of your journals may contain personal and private information, the information and the journals themselves will be kept confidential and private.

To fulfill this assignment you will need to follow a few simple steps.

1. Use your own words, not those of other sources. Don’t use footnotes or refer to other sources.
2. Put your name and journal entry number at the top of each page.
3. Each journal entry should be at least 300 words and contain a minimum of four well written and well thought through paragraphs with proper grammar and spelling. Please check for typos and grammatical errors. An entry that is not long enough or contains too many typos (including poor grammar) will receive a reduced grade.
4. Use Times New Roman 12-point font and double spacing in a Microsoft Word document.
5. If you plagiarize, do not follow the above directions, or fail to submit a journal entry, you will receive a grade of 0 for that entry.

Journal Topics
1. Share a short biography about your religious background.
2. What has changed, if anything, in your personal beliefs about religion?

Please note that all journal entries must be submitted via eCampus and will be checked by an anti-plagiarism program (SafeAssign). If any part of your entry is plagiarized, it will receive a grade of 0.