Syllabus for Philosophy 1316-9001: Religion in American Culture

Course Description
PHIL1316: Religion in American Culture Section 9001
Brookhaven College & Dallas Telecollege
Social Science Department
Fall 2012

Catalog Description: Prerequisite: None

This course examines the nature of religion in America. It covers important influences from the past and characteristics of current religious groups and movements. Emphasis is on understanding the role of religion in American life. (3 Lec.)

COORDINATING BOARD ACADEMIC APPROVAL NUMBER 3802015212

Instructor
Janet Jerrow, Ph.D.
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Required Materials
• Selected readings posted on eCampus course site.

• Note: You may purchase these books at the Brookhaven College bookstore or order from the MBS Online Bookstore: by phone at 1-800-325-3252, or via Internet at http://direct.mbsbooks.com/dccc.htm.

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 26, 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, **October 11, 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](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.dcccd.edu/cat0406/ss/code/cfm?loc=2](https://www1.dcccd.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 1316 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/](http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/dl/)

The eCampus Technical Support and Help Desk can be found at [http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/dl/fac-support.aspx](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/](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:  
Three Exams = 30 points (10 points each)  
Five Discussions = 25 points (5 points each)  
Essays = 45 points (15 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 (30 points).** There will be three exams. The exams will be worth 30% of your total grade (10% for each of the 3 exams). Exam 1 is due Thursday, October 25, 2012; exam 2 is due Thursday, November 15, 2012; and exam 3 is due Friday, December 7, 2012.

2. **DISCUSSIONS (25 points).** There will be 5 discussions; each is worth 5 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. Posts must be submitted by the discussion deadlines: Thursday, October 11, 2012; Monday, October 22, 2012; Thursday, November 1, 2012, Monday, November 12, 2012; and Tuesday, November 27, 2012.
3. ESSAYS (45 points). There will be three 1000-word essays to write; each is worth 15 points. All essays must be submitted by Tuesday, December 11, 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. Introduce yourself to your classmates (found on Discussion Board)

NOTE: ALL READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS LISTED BELOW ARE REQUIRED.

*The discussions and tests 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 and complete the tests by their due dates.

Section 1: Target Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012
Readings:
Religion in American Life – Preface, chapters 1 & 2

DISCUSSION 1
Due date: Thursday, October 11, 2012

Section 2: Target Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012
Readings:
Religion in American Life – Chapters 3 & 4
Myths America Lives By – Forward, introduction, and chapter 1

DISCUSSION 2
Due date: Monday, October 22, 2012

Section 3: Target Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012
Readings:
Religion in American Life – Chapters 5-7
Myths America Lives By – Chapter 2

TEST 1
Due date: Thursday, October 25, 2012

Section 4: Target Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2012
Readings:
Religion in American Life – Chapters 8-11
Myths America Lives By – Chapter 3
DISCUSSION 3  
Due date: Thursday, November 1, 2012

Section 5: Target Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2012  
Readings:  
Religion in American Life – Chapters 12-15  
Myths America Lives By – Chapter 4

DISCUSSION 4  
Due date: Monday, November 12, 2012

Section 6: Target Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2012  
Readings:  
Religion in American Life – Chapters 16-17  
Myths America Lives By – Chapter 5

TEST 2  
Due date: Thursday, November 15, 2012

Section 7: Target Date: Wednesday, November 21, 2012  
Readings:  
Religion in American Life – Chapters 18-20  
Myths America Lives By – Chapter 6

DISCUSSION 5  
Due date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Section 8: Target Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2012  
Readings:  
Religion in American Life – Chapters 21-22

Section 9: Target Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2012  
Readings:  
Religion in American Life – Chapters 23-24 & epilogue

TEST 3  
Due date: Friday, December 7, 2012

Last day to submit all essays: Tuesday, December 11, 2012

ESSAYS  
Counting as 45 points of your final grade, you will write three essays. Each essay is worth 15 points of your total grade. The assignment is to choose any three chapters (excluding the forward and introduction), summarize each one in a separate essay, and provide your opinion regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the chapter’s arguments. Each essay should be 1000 words.

To fulfill this assignment you will need to follow a few simple steps.
    1. 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.
    2. Use Times New Roman 12-point font and double spacing in a Microsoft Word document.
3. If you plagiarize, do not follow the above directions, or fail to submit the essays by Tuesday, December 11, 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.