Philosophy 1317: Introduction to the Bible and Christianity to 1000 AD
Cedar Valley College

GENERAL INFORMATION
College Name Cedar Valley College
Division Liberal Arts
Semester/Term & Year Fall Term (Online Flex Course) – 9/13/12 to 10/19/12

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Name Brian Homoleski
DCCCD E-mail address bhomoleski@dcccd.edu
Telephone 214-450-6808 (voice only)
Office Hours (FT faculty) Regular hours for student contacts to be determined

COURSE INFORMATION
Course Number 2012FA-PHIL-1317-3430
Section Number 783480
Credit Hours 3
Class Meeting Time Online Course
Course Title An Historic Survey of Major Religions: Introduction to the Bible and Christianity to 1000 AD

Course Description This is a study of not only the history of the Bible but also the development and spread of Christianity during the time that it became a dominant religion for the western world. Explore how the Bible was formed as well as how key beliefs in Christianity were developed and spread. Multimedia and interactive classroom assignments will bring the material to life.

Course Prerequisites One of the following must be met:
(1) Developmental Reading 0093 AND Developmental Writing 0093;
(2) English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 AND 0054; or
(3) Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Reading and Writing standards

Intellectual Competencies This course reinforces some of the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
1. **READING**: Reading at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials—book, article and documents.

2. **WRITING**: Competency in writing is the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience.

3. **CRITICAL THINKING**: Critical thinking embraces methods of applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to evaluate arguments and to construct alternative strategies. Problem solving is one of the applications of critical thinking, used to address and identify task.

4. **COMPUTER LITERACY**: Computer Literacy at the college level means the ability to use computer-based technology in communicating, solving problems and acquiring information.

5. **SPEECH**: Speech at the college levels means the ability to present research and information in a variety of oral communication methods.

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**Student Learning Outcomes**

During this course you will be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills by explaining and assessing strengths and weaknesses of a philosophical position or theory.

2. Argue for informed answers to selected philosophical questions.

3. Research complex issues, synthesize data and present conclusions about issues.

Throughout the course you will find that an open mind that researches and listens is a key requirement for good discussion and analysis of issues.

At the end of the course, we anticipate that you will:

- Find that an open mind that researches and listens is a key requirement for good discussion and analysis of issues; and

- Discover how a continuing engagement with texts and media enhance your own philosophical approaches and lead to better decisions.
Another priority for our College beginning in fall 2011 is an emphasis on improving math skills for all students in achieving student success. You will see opportunities for working on these skills all across our curriculum.

**Required Textbooks**

3. *The Holy Bible* – The New International Version is recommended but you can use the version of your choice if it includes the Old and New Testaments.

**Online Course**

Note that this is an online course and requires the use of a computer that is capable of utilizing the features of eCampus. Compatibility with smart phones, iPads and other devices may vary.

**Course Outline**

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<td>9/14/2012</td>
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<td>Online presentation. Bible for Dummies pp. 1-30</td>
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<td>Bible for Dummies pp. 181-216 Assigned passages</td>
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<td>Old Testament: the Writings</td>
<td>In Their Own Words, Assignment</td>
<td>Be the Scholar: Biblical Literature, Discussion group.</td>
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<td>Old Testament Wrap-Up</td>
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<td>Old Testament Exam due</td>
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<td>Online presentation</td>
<td>Be the Scholar: Text Criticism, Online study guide</td>
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<td>New Testament: Gospels Part One</td>
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<td>New Testament: Paul</td>
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<td>Be the Scholar: Theology, Discussion group.</td>
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<td>Christian History</td>
<td>Church History in Plain English pp. 108-140, Assigned passages</td>
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<td>Christian History</td>
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<td>Discussion group.</td>
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<td>10/17/2012</td>
<td>Christian History</td>
<td>Church History in Plain English pp. 141-182</td>
<td>Online study guide</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>10/18/2012</td>
<td>Christian History</td>
<td>In Their Own Words, Assignment</td>
<td>Discussion group.</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>Church History Final</td>
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<td>Church History Final due</td>
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All readings & assignments due by midnight of the session in which they are listed (unless noted otherwise)
**Additional assignments:** Students are required to post their thoughts about the assigned passages from the Bible and Church History to the discussion board, and to interact with other posts. Details will be available on eCampus at the beginning of the course.

**Evaluation Procedures**
Precise weighting of assignments will be posted on eCampus.

**Grading Scale**
- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 59% and below

**Exams and Assignments**
The following assignments will be graded:
- Assigned readings from the textbooks
- Online study guides with exercises and activities
- Discussion board where you will share your ideas with others
- “Be the Scholar” activities where you learn what the experts do
- “In Their Own Words” discussion of biblical & Church writings
- Three section exams (the last is the final exam)
- One 2-3 page discovery paper about a leading historical figure

**Attendance Policy**
As this is a flex course. Students are expected to participate on weekdays. Students must keep up with the assignments so that all work can be completed during the time of the course.

**INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**

**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 972-860-8119.

**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 take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Academic Honesty**
Academic honesty is expected, and integrity is valued in the Dallas County Community Colleges. 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. More information is available at [https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat1011/cattoc.cfm](https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat1011/cattoc.cfm)

**Withdrawal Policy (with drop date)**

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 October 5, 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.

**STOP BEFORE YOU DROP**

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 six 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 six 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: [https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedops](https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedops)

**Repeating this 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. This class may not be repeated for the third or subsequent time without paying the additional tuition. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. More information is available at: [https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oepthird_attempt.cfm](https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oepthird_attempt.cfm)

**Financial Aid**

Students who are receiving any form of financial aid 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.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.