An Historic Survey of Major Religions: History and Literature of the Bible
PHIL 1317-9003
Fall 2012
August 27, 2012 – December 12, 2012

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Office Number: W265
Office Hours: M 12:30-2:30, T/W/Th 12:30-1:30
Meeting Days & Time: Online, Weekly Deadlines at Noon on Wednesdays
Room Number: Online
Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours

Division: Communications and Social Sciences
Office Phone: 214.860.8830

Course Description:
This course is an historic survey of religion in one or more of the major world religions. The course content may vary among semesters to focus on the history and literature of the Bible, or texts and traditions of the major religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity or Islam. College course schedules specify the emphasis for each semester. (3 Lec.)

Course Prerequisites: (1) DREA 0093 with a “C” or higher;
(2) ESOL 0044 with a “C” or higher;
(3) TSI approved Reading test score equivalent to exiting from (or being exempt from) DREA 0093; or
(4) a Reading required CORE course listed with a “C” or higher.

Course Materials/Supplies Needed:
All students are expected to obtain the use of a textbook.
2. Access to eCampus for online reading assignments. Student may use the campus computer lab.

State Requirements:
Intellectual Competencies:
This course 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 the 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. Critical Thinking: think and analyze at a critical level.
Exemplary Educational Objectives:
This course satisfies the following Exemplary Education Objectives in 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.

Course Objectives:
1. To equip students with the primary concepts, characters, history and vocabulary of biblical literature.
2. To help students think critically about their own worldviews and those of others.
3. To equip students with cultural connections to biblical concepts.
4. To enable students to participate in the Great Conversation.

Student Learning Outcomes:
After successful completion of this course the student should be able to:
- Identify selected biblical writings, characters, and concepts.
- Connect selected biblical concepts to contemporary American culture.
- Apply critical thinking skills by creating an informed personal response to biblical concepts.

Course Outline:
1. Introduction to Biblical Literature
2. The Hebrew Bible
3. The Apocrypha and New Testament
4. Cultural Connections

Evaluation Procedures:
1. FOUR EXAMS will be worth 75% of your total semester grade. The exams are objective and will cover material in lecture and unit readings. Exams are taken online by the deadlines listed in the Schedule of Class Activities. Exam questions will vary for each student, and will be randomly drawn from a larger pool. Students should use the Study Guides as they read to prepare themselves for all possible test questions.

2. DISCUSSION will be worth 25% of your total semester grade. Each week, you will find one or more questions on the Discussion Board in which to engage with your classmates. Read each other's posts, and check back at least a few times to see who answered you or what new discussion might be happening. Your grade will be based on the depth and breadth of your contributions. The more connections you can make to our material, and the more engaged you are with classmates, the better your weekly grade will be. Please be respectful of people in the discussion, even when we are debating ideas together.

3. EXTRA CREDIT is available to any student who visits the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and submits a 3-page report about what was learned by December 6 at noon (typed, double space, emailed to dnichols@dcccd.edu). Tickets are $15 for students with a student ID, $25 for regular adult admission. Visit www.seethescrolls.com for tickets and information. Extra credit will be in the form of points added to the lowest exam score as follows: 25 points for an A report, 20 points for a B report, 15 points for a C report, 10 points for a D report, 5 points for an F report, and 0 points for no report even if the student visited. The instructor may request that you mail your ticket stub to verify attendance, and these must be received by December 6 to be counted in the student's grade.
Instructor Attendance Policy:
In this course, attendance means participation in exams and discussion. Any student who has not made contact by the certification date will be reported as "non-attending" for financial aid purposes, as per the following Federal guidelines:

Students must begin attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid will not be granted to students who have been certified as not attending, by the certification date. For this lecture course, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, check with the division or FAO for further information. Students, who are not certified as beginning class, are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses.

Grading Scale:
FINAL GRADES will be assigned according to your work average as follows and will not be released by e-mail, telephone, or fax in order to protect students’ privacy:
A = 90%-100%  B = 80%-89%  C = 70% -79%  D = 60%-69%  F = 0%-59%

Late Work Policy:
No late assignments or exams will be accepted because you have weeks to complete them. There is no reason to wait until the deadline day to post to the discussion or to take exams. If you experience a serious emergency that takes you away from the discussion for the entire week, please speak with your instructor.

Makeup Exam Policy:
Late exams are not given in this course because you have many weeks to prepare and complete exams. Do not wait until the deadline date to take your exams unless you enjoy living dangerously

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 Thursday, November 15, 2012. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an "F." Students often drop courses when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with your instructor if you feel the need to withdraw. 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 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: https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop

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/cat0506/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm .
Financial Aid:
Students must begin attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid will not be granted to students who have been certified as not attending by the certification date. For this lecture class, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date, will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, check with the division or FAO for further information. Students, who are not certified as beginning class, are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses. 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.

If you are receiving financial aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI)
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student's basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college level classes. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher. Additional information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/admiss/ tsi_requirements.cfm.

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. If you are from another culture, please realize that in America, sharing work or copying from authors without giving credit is considered illegal and immoral.

As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published in the DCCC D Catalog. More information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0406/ss/code.cfm

ADA Statement:
Mountain View College and the Office of Special Services are committed to upholding the laws and the spirit of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed in 1990.

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.

Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus:
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

Inclement Weather Statement:
In the event of severe weather conditions, please listen to local radio or television stations for information concerning official closing of Mountain View College facilities. You can also call the inclement weather hotline at 214.860.8888,
or check for updates on this web site. Decisions for evening classes will be made by 4:00 PM. Since we’re online, this isn’t likely to affect us as long as we have electricity.

**General College Practices:**

a. Treat your classmates and instructor as you would colleagues in a business. Follow adult, business-place etiquette.

b. Print and use the syllabus. Consult the syllabus before asking questions.

c. Access the class website early in the semester to become familiar with resources and assignments.

d. Communicate with your instructors if you are absent for any significant period of time.

e. Keep track of your grades and average. Save graded work until you receive your final grade.

f. Please do not bring children to class, even if it means you must miss class.

g. Do not let your cell phone or laptop computer distract classmates. Computers should only be used for class-related tasks, and cell phones should be silenced during class. Texting and browsing the Internet are distracting, and therefore, rude. These activities are not permitted in this course, and earphones should not be used during any class.

h. **Debate ideas, not people.** You should be able to disagree with classmates and instructors and still maintain respectful, productive relationships.

**Tentative Schedule of Class Activities:** Please see the class website for the official Schedule of Class Activities.