Major Religions of the World

Richland College
Dallas, TX
Division: Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts
972-238-6250
May Term, 5/14/12—6/1/12

Instructor Information:
Instructor: Jon Ewing
Phone: 972-238-6929
e-mail: jdewing@dcccd.edu
Office: WH-138 Wichita Hall
Office hours: M-R 100-200pm

Course Information:
PHIL 1304.8245
Credit hours: (3)
Class meets: MTWRF 900am-1210pm in Del Rio D163

Required Texts:
- Experiencing the World’s Religions (5th Edition), Michael Molloy, McGraw-Hill, 2010 [ISBN 978-0-07-340750-0]. – Available in the Richland Bookstore; there are also copies at the Reserve Desk in the Richland College Library
- Holy Bible (translation up to you) – also available on eCampus site
- Holy Qur’an (translation up to you) – also available on eCampus site

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:
- Attendance, & Journals: 25%
- Class Participation/In-Class Assignments: 25%
- Reading Quizzes: 20%
- Final Paper/Project: 30%

Grading Scale:
A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below.
1. Attendance
Since this is an intensive 3 week course (Mayterm), attendance is mandatory. I will keep attendance for all class meetings [both at the beginning and at the end]. Any more than one absence will seriously affect your overall grade. Please make a commitment to be on time and present for all class meetings.

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 engage in three journal exercises. All of these assignments are done online through the eCampus site for the course. The Journals area can be found under the TOOLS tab on the course menu.

2. Class Participation/In-Class Assignments
The student’s participation in class-wide and group level discussions is a must for a course of this type. Please actively participate. There will be some short in-class assignments (e.g., questionnaires, film reviews, etc.) which will be counted towards this portion of your grade.

3. Reading Quizzes
There will be four brief quizzes on several of your assigned readings. There will be no make-ups on quizzes. Thus, you are encouraged to be present in order to complete each quiz on the date listed in the course calendar. All of the quizzes will be taken from the assigned textbook readings. However, being present on other days for class work and powerpoint lectures will generally enhance your performance on any given quiz.

4. Final Paper/Project
Instead of a Final Exam, you will have the choice of either writing a final research paper (3-4pp) or constructing a media project (the project should include one or two pages of description). Each student must choose a religious tradition outside of his/her own tradition. If they do not have a particular tradition, they must choose one they are not familiar with. The idea here is to get you to expose yourself to something outside of your own comfort zone. I am flexible if you want to be creative. Remember that this constitutes thirty percent of your final grade. The due date for the final paper/project is 5pm Friday, June 1st, no exceptions. Plagiarism (e.g., copying from a book and/or a website) will result in a 0 for this project, and will seriously affect the student’s final grade for the course.

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 something said in class, please feel free to share your concerns with me.
• It's always best to keep me posted. If you have a concern about a deadline, or if you're having problems, please contact me by email, office phone, and/or visit me during my posted office hours. I am reasonably sympathetic, except in the case of laziness and/or negligence.

Electronic device policy: My classroom policy is a ‘no tolerance’ policy. Use of iPhones, cell phones, laptops, etc. is prohibited during class.
Attendance Policy

According to school guidelines, attendance is mandatory for you to receive credit for the course. This is because there is simply no way to recreate portions of this course, particularly class lectures and group discussions/reports. If you arrive after attendance is taken, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are not marked absent. After the withdrawal date, excessive absences may result in a failing grade in the course. All in all it's a good idea to come to class and to be on time.

If you simply have to miss class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you get notes from your peers on what you missed during a class. Remember: your absence is not an excuse for turning in an assignment late -- give it to a friend to bring to class or drop it by my office on the due date.

Office Hours:

Please visit me during my office hours from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Mon.—Thurs. in Wichita Hall WH-138.

- The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Policies</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **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](https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop) |
| **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 drop date. 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 division office. |
| **Repeating a 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. 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 [http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/](http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/) |
| **Financial Aid** | 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. |
| **Academic Honesty** | 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.
<p>|                    | 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 at <a href="http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm">http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm</a> (Select Purpose) |
| <strong>ADA Statement</strong> | 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 to <a href="http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/">http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/</a> (CTRL + Click to access “Current Students” site to “Student Services” to “Disability Services”) |
| <strong>Religious Holidays</strong> | 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 contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence. |
| <strong>Food, drink, cell phones, etiquette, etc.</strong> | As a college student, you are considered to be a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Student Code of Conduct published in the Richland College and DCCCD catalogues, which can also be found online at <a href="http://www.dcccd.edu/cat0102/conduct/htm">http://www.dcccd.edu/cat0102/conduct/htm</a> |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Daily Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<td>5/14/2012</td>
<td>What is Religion?</td>
<td>Molloy, pp3-32</td>
<td>Video: Excerpts from <em>Gladiator</em></td>
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