Major Religions of the World
Summer I (06/06/12—07/03/12)

Richland College
Dallas, TX
Division: Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts
972-238-6250

Instructor Information:
Instructor: Ashvina Patel
Phone: 972-238-6980
Email: apatel@dcccd.edu
Virtual office hours: By Appt

Course Information:
PHIL 1304.8401/9016
Credit hours: (3)
Class meets: On-line, eCampus site

Required Texts:

Suggested Texts:

Description:
This course surveys the major world religions: Including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, 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.

Prerequisites:
Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Purpose:
This course will take an academic survey of the major world religions. Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese Religions, Japanese Religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam are included.

Outcomes:
Students will be able to outline the major differences and similarities between the world’s major religions and distinguish between their core beliefs, values, symbols, major figures, and goals.
**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:**

- Discussions & Video Response: 35%
- Journal Activities: 15%
- Reading Quizzes: 30%
- Worship Center Visit: 20%

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below.

1. **Discussion & Video Responses (35%)**

Discussion boards will allow students to participate in an online conversation with their classmates. You will be asked to engage a discussion topic, requiring a written response to the group and you will also be asked to reflect upon the response of one of your peers and write a response to him/her. These discussions may include video clips, readings of parables, koans, comparative work etc.

2. **Journals & Super Mario (15%)**

Every student will be expected to maintain a personal journal for the duration of the semester. Things to include are: your major, other Religion or Philosophy courses you have had, home town, career goals, etc. You may write as little or as much as you want, but I want you to write down some reflections on the content of the class, the work you are doing in the class, and on the reading/assignments I have assigned. Failure to turn in a journal at the appointed times will lower your overall grade.

Also as a part of your journal entries, you will be asked to reflect upon parts the course. Within your Power Point Units, there will be posted “Mario/Luigi Points.” Complete the short reflection associated with these points for full credit. You must read your Units thoroughly in order to find the Mario/Luigi points. There are a total of 25 points possible. There is no time limit on these points; you may turn them in at your leisure. You will need PowerPoint software to read these Units, as it is not simply a slideshow, you will need to read and respond to the “lecture notes” below each slide.
3. Reading Quizzes (30%)
There will be 5 brief quizzes on the assigned readings in the textbook. There will be NO make-ups on quizzes. Thus, you are encouraged to complete each quiz by the deadline listed in the Course Calendar.

4. Worship Center Visit (20%)
During the session, you will be required to visit a public Worship Center for one of the faith traditions covered in this course. I will provide you with a list of possible Dallas area suggestions, although you may choose your own as long as this is approved by me. You must make your own arrangements for the visit. After your visit, you will be responsible for turning in a typed report of approximately 4 pages which gives details of the visit and further information about the religious tradition represented. You will also be required to post a brief summary of your experience for the benefit of the rest of the class. 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. It is therefore not appropriate to make fun of someone else’s religious background and/or their point of view. You may disagree with their point of view; but please express your disagreement in a polite way, providing well-reasoned arguments as to why you disagree. If you ever feel uncomfortable with the content of the online discussions, please communicate and share your concerns with me directly. You do not know the religious affiliations of your classmates, so being respectful of all traditions is a good rule of thumb.
• If you have a concern about a deadline, or if you're having problems, please contact me by email. I am reasonably sympathetic, except in the case of laziness and/or negligence.
• Lack of access to a computer, Internet, or spotty Internet service is NOT a legitimate excuse. This is an online course you are expected to take caution and perhaps finish assignment, not on time, but early, so that uncontrollable situations don’t arise. Public libraries and college campuses should have computers available to you and wireless cafes, such as Starbucks are replete in almost every neighborhood.

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

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<th>Stop Before You Drop</th>
<th><strong>6Drop</strong></th>
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<td>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 <a href="https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop">https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop</a></td>
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| 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 (instructor inserts semester’s drop date here). 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.** 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 [http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm](http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm)_. |

| 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 972-238-6180 (Voice/TTY), visit Thunderduck Hall, suite T120, or go to [http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/](http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/) (CTRL + Click to access “Current Students” site to “Student Services” to “Disability Services”) |

<p>| 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 contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence. |</p>
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<th>Food, drink, cell phones, etiquette, etc.</th>
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<td>As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Student Code of Conduct published in the Richland College and DCCCD catalogs and can also be found online at <a href="http://www.dcccd.edu/cat0102/conduct/htm">http://www.dcccd.edu/cat0102/conduct/htm</a></td>
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