MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

PHIL 1304 SECTION 2140/91412

BROOKHAVEN COLLEGE

Social Science

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

FALL
11/16/15-12/17/15

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Alex R. Schilpp

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION PREREQUISITE: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or must have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.
This course surveys the major world religions. Indigenous Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity are included. The history of religions is covered, but the major emphasis is on current beliefs. Other topics may also be included, such as the nature of religion, tribal religion, and alternatives to religion.

COORDINATING BOARD ACADEMIC APPROVAL NUMBER 3802015212

OBJECTIVES This course is designed as an introduction to and survey of major world religions. The academic study of religion -- which is not to be confused with a faith-centered approach to the study of religion -- approaches the phenomenon of religion in human life as an objective field of study and inquiry. This course will focus upon the theology, beliefs, history, rituals, and practices of the world's major religions.

ISBN: 978-0-07-353564-7
Students may purchase the textbook from Missouri Bookstore via Internet or telephone.

MBS Online Bookstore: http://direct.mbsbooks.com/dcccd.htm. Respond to the prompts. You will need to know your course name and pay with a credit card. By Phone: 1-800-325-3252

Students may also purchase this required text at the Follett Bookstore located on the Brookhaven College campus.

**RELI 1304** is a part of the Core Curriculum and addresses the following Exemplary Educational Objectives and Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies as set forth by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

**Exemplary Educational Objectives in Religion**
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 and 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.

**Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies**
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 appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience - above 12th grade level.
4. Listening - analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading - above 12th grade level.
5. Critical Thinking - think and analyze at a critical level.

**RELI 1304 Learning Outcomes**
These outcomes address the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC) and the Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO) in the humanities and visual and performing arts.

Upon completion of RELI 1304, students should be able to demonstrate competence in the academic study of religion by:
I. Demonstrating awareness of the nature of religion, the variety of religions in the world and religion's impact upon culture and human self-understanding. (This outcome satisfies CCIC 1-5 and EEO 1, 2, 3, and 5) The student will be able to:
   a. Describe major world religions including basic theology, beliefs, history, ritual and practices.
   b. Define and describe the key personages and scriptures of major world religions.
   c. Define a variety of religious/cultural/social problems and potential solutions.
   d. Describe the development and influence of religions within their historical and/or social contexts.
   e. Explain differing impacts of religion upon and within human cultures.

II. Articulating an informed personal reaction to world religions. (This outcome satisfies CCIC 1-5 and EEO 1, 2, 3, and 4) The student will be able to:
   a. Articulate a personal reaction to the beliefs and cultural impact of several religions.
   b. Articulate a personal reaction to questions of personal religious belief/unbelief.

III. Applying critical thinking skills to complex problems impacted by religion. (This outcome satisfies CCIC 1-5 and EEO 3, 4, and 5) The student will be able to:
   a. Critique religion-based propositions, claims and practices.
   b. Analyze and critique complex, contemporary religious issues presented in scholarly and popular articles.
   c. Analyze religious problems and conflicts from multiple points of view.
   d. Describe the dynamics of the relationship between faith and reason.

POLICIES

SIX DROP ISSUE- 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/coursedrops

Withdrawal: 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. 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 (12/10/2015), you will receive a "W" (Withdraw) in each class dropped.

Students Receiving Financial Aid: If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date 11/19/2015 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. Changes in your enrollment level and/or failing grades may have adverse consequences. Phone: 972-860-4110

Please note: The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course online. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor and seeking clarification of any requirement that is not understood.

Repeating This Course: Effective with the Fall 2005 Semester, 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 Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester.

Disabilities Act Compliance: If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires ADA accommodations, please contact your college Disability/Special Services in Room S-124 or call 972-860-4847 on the Brookhaven Campus.

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/cat0608/ss/code.cfm?loc=2](https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0608/ss/code.cfm?loc=2)

**COMPLETING THE COURSE** The class schedule, required readings and assignments are found under the tabs on the class website. The course is divided into five units. Each unit should be completed entirely before proceeding to the next unit. *Note the target date for completing each unit and test.* The target date is not a due date; rather, it is meant to help you pace yourself so that you can see where you probably should be at any given time throughout the semester. While this course is asynchronous (you work on it by yourself whenever you want and are not required to be on-line at specific times), you really do need to plan your schedule so that all coursework is completed by the end of the semester. Be aware of the time-frame we are working on in this course so that you do not fall too far behind; catching up at the end of the course may be very difficult. **It is your responsibility to complete all assignments no later than Thursday, Dec 15th, 2015.**

**Your coursework will cover four areas of academic endeavor:**
1. Reading and studying the assigned chapters in Michael Molloy's *Experiencing the World's Religions, Fourth Edition* and other assigned readings for each unit. The complete schedule of readings and assignments will be given and updated.
2. Taking all 5 tests. Tests are posted under the Test link.
3. Turning in your Research Paper. Instructions for the paper can be found under the Research Paper tab.
4. Completing & submitting the 4 forum discussion essays.

**GRADING PROCEDURES** Grades will be based on a scale of 100 points, distributed as follows:

- Five tests at 100 points each = 500 points
- Research Paper - 100 points (optional)
- Four Discussion Forums at 25 points each=100

**TOTAL = 700 points.** (600 points if you choose not to do a research paper). Your course grade will be the average of your total points divided by 7 which represents your five test grades, research paper grade, and four discussion forum total. These are the only grades given for this course.

The Orientation grade/mark is not included in your course average but indicates that you have read the Syllabus & announcements and are good to go in the course.
The tests multiple choice questions are scored by the computer and for security purposes the corrected multiple choice questions are not made available to students. Each test represents a separate chapter and the material from any particular test is not carried over to the next test so that what is missed on any test will not be tested again in the future. The test should be completed when opened the first time. Once a test is completed, students will not be permitted to go back into the test in order to change or complete any questions. The 3 essay questions for each test should be 3-5 paragraphs long and contain developed topics using the language of the texts to show that your have mastered an understanding of the topic based on what is presented in the text book.

Also, the essay should contain the student's personal opinion or perspective on the essay topic.

The discussion forum should also follow these guidelines with emphasis on the student's personal opinion and perspective being stated after the student shows they have understood the topic of the question. A comprehensive approach to developing the topic and presenting a mature opinion/perspective on the topic will produce the kind of discussion that will warrant a top grade(25/25).

Grade distribution:
A = 90 - 100 points  
B = 80 - 89.5 points
C = 70 - 79.5 points
D = 65 - 69.5 points
F = 64- or fewer points

Suggested Assignment Due Dates: These are not mandatory due dates. They are offered to you as a structure for managing your assignment completions. However, all assignments are due on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015 except for Research Paper due on Mon. Dec. 14.

I. Discussion Forum 1 & Test 1 Sun. Nov.22
II. Discussion Forum 2 & Test 2 Sat. Nov.28
III. Discussion Forum 3 & Test 3 Fri. Dec.4
IV. Research Paper Due by Mon. Dec.14( Optional)
V. Discussion Forum 4 & Test 4 Thur. Dec. 10
VI Test 5 Thurs. Dec.17th-midnight course work deadline
Go to http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/onlinesvcs/econn.html to learn about all the student services that are available to you through eConnect.

Class Schedule/Readings: Suggested Study and Test Preparation

1: Course Orientation; Read the Syllabus for Course perspectives. Note Taking.

The Sacred-Concepts and Symbolism. The sources of Religion

2. Review Course Orientation, other details. Read and Highlight Ch. 1, P. 10; Patterns Among Religions. & Multidisciplinary Approaches to Religion (P. 17ff) Key Critical issues (19ff) Why Study the Major World Religions? (p.23) Pilgrims, Key Concepts (p.29)


First Forum Discussion due

Test 1 Test Link


4. **Jewish Belief & Religious Practices.** The Jewish Sabbath, Holy Days, Dietary Practices, Divisions with the Religion, Jewish Contributions, identity and the future. **Key Terms Pages 348-349.** 2nd Discussion question due. Assignment link 2nd

**2nd Forum Discussion**

**Test. 2 Test link**

Ch. 9 Christianity Study Schedule

Test 3 Prep (1) First Encounters Life & Teachings of Jesus of Nazareth

Great Commandments, Early Christian Belief & History

Sacraments-Pages 410 & 411

(2) Review concepts & main ideas of (1); Paul and Pauline

Acts of the Apostles Epistles Revelations Canon

Early spread of Christianity Greek & Roman Religions

(3) Review (2) Influence of Christianity at end of Roman Empire St. Augustine St. Benedict-Rule for Monks

Eastern Orthodox Religions

4) Middle Ages/Mysticism Role/ Devotion to Mary

Crusades Inquisition Religious Orders

5) Protestant Reformation/Martin Luther, et.al.

Forms of Protestantism 396-401. Counter reformation.


Christian Meditation p. 428
Review of concepts, themes, historical details 3rd Forum Discussion due. See 3rd test preview for Essays and important concepts.

3rd Forum Discussion Due

Test 3 Test Link

Islam-Chapter 10. [ST1] Suggested Study Schedule for 4th Test

1. The Life and Teachings of Muhammad P. 438

Terms to Know: hadiths Quran Kabah Khadijah Muslims

Hijra mosque Essentials of Islam P. 444 meuzzin Islam and the other religions.

2. The Five Pillars (supports) of Islam P. 445

Additional Islamic Religious Practices. P. 451 Dietary Restrictions

Prohibition against Usury and Gambling Circumcision Marriage

Female Roles Death Rituals

3. scripture: The Qur’an P. 454

The Historical Development of Islam P. 456 Expansion and Consolidation

The Shiite and Sunni Division within Islam P. 460

Shiite Islam Sunni Islam

4. Sufism: Islamic Mysticism P.465 Beliefs: P.468

Islamic Law and Philosophy P. 475


Image making….Challenge of Secularism Conflict over secular and Religious States. P.486 ff.

Egypt, Afghanistan

Review Chapter 10 Islam Key Terms P. 498-499

4th Discussion Forum Due
Test 4 Test link

This 5th Test will cover Chapter 4 Buddhism and the important concepts that it contains.

Chapter 4 Buddhism  Suggested Study Schedule

5th Test Prep 1.  The Beginning of Buddhism: The Life of Buddha

   The Basic Teachings of Buddhism: The three marks of Reality


3)  The Influence of Indian Thought on Early

   Buddhist Teachings:Ahimsa, The Soul and Karma,Nirvana

   The Early Development of Buddhism,P.136-143


5th Test

Research Paper Due anytime before  Mon. Dec. 14th(optional)

ALL  ASSIGNMENTS DUE BY Thurs. Dec. 17th MIDNIGHT