Syllabus for Philosophy 1304: Introduction to World Religions  
Brookhaven College  
Social Science  
Spring 2015

Course Description:
PHIL1304: Introduction to World Religions. Section 23400 (Online)  
Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading. A comparative study of world religions, including but not limited to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. (3 Lec.)  
Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 3802015212

Instructor:
Janet Jerrow, PhD  
Phone: 972-860-7444 ext. 22102  
Email: ijerrow@dcccd.edu

There are no office hours; please email me with any questions or concerns.

Communication with your instructor:
I try to review and grade all newly posted material at least once a day. Also, you can expect me to respond to your e-mails normally within 24-48 hours. Be aware that while this is my general and intended practice, it is subject to the changes and chances of life.

Technical Requirements and Support (for eCampus users)
- PHIL 1304-23400 requires access to a computer, the Internet and e-mail (if applicable)
- If you should have any technical difficulties, you may go to the eCampus Technical Support and Help Desk at http://ecampus.dcccd.edu or call 972-669-6402. There is a link for Technical Assistants where students may submit a ticket. Also alert the instructor concerning any technical problems. (if applicable)
- Everything you need to know about the Dallas Community Colleges and distance education can be found at our website: http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/dl/ or http://online.dcccd.edu/

Required Materials:

PHIL 1304 is included in the DCCCD Core Curriculum. This course provides students with the opportunity to develop the Core Curriculum Objectives of communication, personal responsibility, social responsibility and critical thinking fundamental to all DCCCD Core Curriculum courses.
Core Curriculum Objectives
PHIL 1304 satisfies the following Core Objectives defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

**Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

**Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

**Social Responsibility**: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

**Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

PHIL 1304 Learning Outcomes
PHIL 1304 learning outcomes describe the goals for all PHIL 1304 courses at Brookhaven College. These outcomes address the Core Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique religious texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of beliefs, practices, values, and terminology of major world religions.
3. Trace the historical developments and cultural expressions of world religions.
4. Articulate key conceptual distinctions in world religions.
5. Communicate understanding of world religions, orally or in writing.
6. Communicate ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse religious beliefs.

**ADA Statement**
If you feel you may need special assistance or accommodation (such as help with taking notes, extra time on tests, etc.) because of any type of physical disability or learning difference, please contact the Special Services office in Room S124 or at 972-860-4673.

**Drop/Withdrawal Policy**
Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which YOU must initiate; the instructor cannot do it for you. You may withdraw from a class in either the Admissions office or Advising Center. If you stop attending or are unable to complete this class and you do not withdraw before the official drop date, you will receive a performance grade, usually a grade of “F.” Students sometimes drop a class when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with the instructor if you feel you need to withdraw. The full drop and withdrawal policy is online in the college catalog.

https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/dw.cfm?use_nav=acad_info&loc=econ

**Financial Aid Statement**
Failure to attend classes could result in a loss of Financial Aid (FA). If you are receiving any form of financial aid, you should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from class. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position or repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.
International Students
Students on an F-1 visa cannot withdraw from classes without jeopardizing their official status. If you are on an F-1 visa, you MUST NOT withdraw from any class without the permission of an International Student Advisor in the Multicultural Center in Room S136 or at 972-860-4192.

Religious Holidays
A student shall be excused from attending classes, or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this provision may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Third Attempt
Effective for the Fall Semester 2005, 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 of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester.

Academic Integrity
Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct and is punishable as stated in college policies. Please review the full Student Code of Conduct as listed in the college catalog for additional information. https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm

Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited, to cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to provide guidelines for the educational environment of the Dallas County Community College District. This environment views students in a holistic manner, encouraging and inviting them to learn and grow independently. Such an environment presupposes both rights and responsibilities.

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. The full drop and withdrawal policy is online in the college catalog. https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Grade Reports
Final grade reports are not mailed to students. You may obtain your final grades online at eConnect, https://econnect.dcccd.edu/ From the student menu, select “My Grades” under “My
Personal Information.” If you are not already logged in, you will be prompted to do so. Select the grade type you wish to review. Press the submit button and all grades for the selected grade type will be displayed.

Instructor’s Right to Modify
The instructor has the right to add, delete, or revise segments of this course syllabus.

FERPA
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. More information about the FERPA guidelines is available online in the college catalog at https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/about/privacy.cfm

Important Dates for Regular Semester Length Courses
January 2 (F) College Buildings and Offices Open
January 12 (M) Faculty Reports
January 15-16 (R-F) eCampus Maintenance Time
January 19 (M) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
January 20 (T) Classes Begin
February 2 (M) 12th Class Day
February 19 (R) Conference Day- day and evening classes will not meet.
February 20 (F) Professional Development Day-
Friday day classes will not meet.
Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday classes WILL meet.
February 23 (M) Classes Resume
March 9-13 (M-F) Spring Break- College buildings & offices will be closed for the week.
March 16 (M) Classes Resume
April 3 (F) Holiday
April 6 (M) Classes Resume
April 16 (R) Last Day to Withdraw
May 11-14 (M-R) Final Exams
May 14 (R) Semester Ends
May 18 (M) Last Day for faculty to submit grades electronically through eConnect to the Registrar’s Office
May Graduation Ceremony dates may vary at the colleges depending on space available.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. EXAMS (40 points). There are seven unit exams and one final exam. The exams are worth 40% of your total grade (5% for each of the 8 exams). There are recommended target dates for their completion (see Calendar and Schedule of Due Dates below), but the absolute last day to submit them is Friday, April 17, 2015.

2. DISCUSSIONS (30 points). There are three discussions with strict due dates. Each discussion is worth 10 points, or 10% of your final grade. The discussion readings are posted on eCampus under the Discussion Readings tab. In order to receive credit
for any one discussion, you must include a minimum of TWO posts: 1) one thread (5 points maximum per discussion), to be posted by day one of a given discussion and 2) one response to a classmate’s thread (5 points maximum per discussion), to be posted on day two of a given discussion. The following are strict deadlines:
   a. Discussion 1 – post your thread by Wednesday, January 28, 2015, and post your response to a classmate’s thread on Thursday, January 29, 2015.
   b. Discussion 2 – post your thread by Wednesday, March 11, 2015, and post your response to a classmate’s thread on Thursday, March 12, 2015.
   c. Discussion 3 – post your thread by Wednesday, April 8, 2015, and post your response to a classmate’s thread on Thursday, April 9, 2015.

3. ESSAY (20 points). There is a 1500-word essay to write. It is worth 20% of your final grade. Due date is Thursday, April 16, 2015.

4. JOURNAL ENTRIES (10 points). There are two journal entries. Each one is worth 5% of your final grade. Journal entry 1 is due by Sunday, January 25, 2015. Journal entry 2 is due by Friday, April 17, 2015.

Grades will be based on a scale of 100 points, distributed as follows:
Eight Exams = 40 points (5 points each)
Three Discussions = 30 points (10 points each)
Essay = 20 points
Two Journal Entries = 10 points (5 points each)
TOTAL = 100 points

Grade point distribution:

A = 90 – 100 points
B = 80 – 89.5 points
C = 70 – 79.5 points
D = 60 – 69.5 points
F = 59.5 or fewer points

CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE OF DUE DATES

Syllabus/Course Modification
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.

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES:
1. Review the Syllabus
2. Read all Course Information material
3. Introduce yourself to your classmates (found on Discussion Board)
4. Complete and submit the required Orientation
5. Submit any questions you have to Q&A board or e-mail your instructor: jjerrow@dcccd.edu

NOTE: ALL READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS LISTED BELOW ARE REQUIRED.

*Journal entry 1, the essay and all discussions have strict due dates. They are indicated below in RED.

*All units have target dates, which are indicated below in BLUE. A target date is not a due date. Rather, it is the date by which you should aim to complete the unit to consider yourself on pace with the class.

UNIT 1: UNDERSTANDING RELIGION – Target Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2015
Objectives: After completing Unit 1, you should be able to identify: characteristics of religion; the notion of the sacred; symbolism; sources of religions; patterns among religions; approaches to the study of religion; critical issues.

READINGS:
Molloy, chapter 1
Take Test 1

JOURNAL ENTRY 1 (See detailed instructions at the end of the syllabus.)
Due date: Sunday, January 25, 2015

DISCUSSION 1
Thread due by Wednesday, January 28, 2015; response to a classmate’s thread due on Thursday, January 29, 2015

UNIT 2: INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS – Target Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2015
Objectives: After completing Unit 2, you should be able to identify the impact of the natural world upon human experience and religious understanding and explain the concepts of sacred time and space and how they impact indigenous religious practices.

READINGS:
Molloy, chapter 2
Take Test 2

UNIT 3: JUDAISM – Target Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Objectives: After completing Unit 3, you should be able to identify the key events of Jewish history; the Hebrew Bible; Rabbinical Judaism; the Holocaust; Jewish beliefs and practices; the events surrounding the founding of the state of Israel; the divisions within Judaism; the contributions of Judaism to world civilization.

READINGS:
Molloy, chapter 8
Holy Bible, Genesis chapters 1-4; 12-13; 15-18
Holy Bible, Exodus chapters 3; 11-12
Psalms 22; 23; 31; 32; 42; 137
Take Test 3
UNIT 4: CHRISTIANITY – Target Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015
Objectives: After completing Unit 4, you should be able to identify the important events in the life of Jesus; important teachings of Jesus; early Christian beliefs and history; the New Testament; basic differences among Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Protestantism; Christian practices; Christianity's impact upon art.

READINGS:
Molloy, chapter 9
*Holy Bible, Gospel of Matthew chapters 1-6; 9; 13; 16-17; 26-28*
*Holy Bible, Gospel of John chapter 1:1-18*
*Holy Bible, Romans chapter 3:21-31*
*Holy Bible, I Corinthians chapter 15*
*Holy Bible, Colossians chapter 1:15-23*
*I John chapter 4*
Take Test 4

DISCUSSION 2
Thread due by Wednesday, March 11, 2015; response to a classmate’s thread due on Thursday, March 12, 2015

UNIT 5: ISLAM – Target Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Objectives: After completing Unit 5, you should be able to identify key events in the life of Muhammad; basic teachings of Muhammad; the essentials of Islam; Islam's historical development; the Sunni and Shiite divisions; Sufism; basic concepts of Islamic law and philosophy; examples of Islamic art.

READINGS:
Molloy, chapter 10
*The Koran, surah 1*
*The Koran, surah 2: 190-193, 254-261*
*The Koran, surah 4: 1-10*
*The Koran, surah 5: 72-78*
*The Koran, surah 8: 55-65*
*The Koran, surah 9:1-6*
*The Koran, surah 32*
Take Test 5

UNIT 6: HINDUISM – Target Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015
Objectives: After completing Unit 6, you should be able to describe the origins of Hinduism; the Vedic period; the Upanishads; the Bhagavad Gita; the caste system; Hindu belief concerning the stages and goals of life; yogas; the Trimurti; examples of Hindu art.

READINGS:
Molloy, chapter 3
*The Rig Veda (read at least five hymns from any book - your choice)*
*Khandogya Upanishad: I, 1; II, 1*
*The Bhagavad Gita chapters 8 and 11*
Take Test 6
DISCUSSION 3
Thread due by Wednesday, April 8, 2015; response to a classmate’s thread due on Thursday, April 9, 2015

UNIT 7: BUDDHISM – Target Date: Friday, April 10, 2015
Objectives: After completing Unit 7, you should be able to identify key events in the life of the Buddha; basic Buddhist teachings; early developments within Buddhism; basic differences among Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism; aspects of Buddhist ritual and art.

READINGS:
Molloy, chapter 4
Zen Koans (read at least 20 - your choice)
Take Test 7

ESSAY (See detailed instructions below.)
Due date: Thursday, April 16, 2015

Last day to submit all tests (including the final exam) and journal entry 2: Friday, April 17, 2015

ESSAY
Counting as 20 points of your final grade, you will write a 1500-word essay that will demonstrate your knowledge of selected religious traditions, your ability to apply critical thinking skills about their impact on society, and your creativity in developing an informed personal response to these religions traditions.

The topic is the following: Pick two religious traditions (not one you were raised with or have ever practiced) - one polytheistic (Hinduism or Buddhism) and one monotheistic (Judaism, Christianity or Islam) – and write an essay on what you think has made these traditions so enduring and influential. Your essay should take into consideration at least one important historical event for each tradition, at least one significant religious belief for each tradition, and at least one significant religious practice for each tradition. Remember not only to explain each item, but to state clearly why you think it is so important for the religious tradition in question. Also, please refrain from passing judgment on these traditions or comparing them in an unfavorable way with the religious tradition in which you were raised or you currently practice.

Your essay should follow the following format:
Paragraph 1 – Introduction
Paragraph 2 – Discussion of one important historical event for religion 1
Paragraph 3 – Discussion of how this event has contributed to the religion’s staying power and influence.
Paragraph 4 – Discussion of one important religious belief for religion 1.
Paragraph 5 - Discussion of how this belief has contributed to the religion’s staying power and influence.
Paragraph 6 – Discussion of one important religious practice for religion 1.
Paragraph 7 - Discussion of how this practice has contributed to the religion’s staying power and influence.
Paragraph 8 – Discussion of one important historical event for religion 2.
Paragraph 9 - Discussion of how this event has contributed to the religion’s staying power and influence.
Paragraph 10 – Discussion of one important religious belief for religion 2.
Paragraph 11 - Discussion of how this belief has contributed to the religion’s staying power and influence.
Paragraph 12 – Discussion of one important religious practice for religion 2.
Paragraph 13 - Discussion of how this practice has contributed to the religion’s staying power and influence.
Paragraph 14 – Conclusion

To fulfill this assignment you will need to follow a few simple steps.

1. Use your own words, not those of other sources. Don’t use footnotes or refer to other sources (including the textbook).
2. Put your name at the top of the first page.
3. The essay must be at least 1500 words. If it isn’t, it will receive a reduced grade.
4. Indent the first line of each paragraph, and remember that a paragraph must have at least three sentences.
5. Use Times New Roman 12-point font and double spacing in a Microsoft Word document.
6. Please check for typos and grammatical errors (particularly run-on and incomplete sentences). An entry that contains too many typos and poor grammar will receive a reduced grade.
7. If you plagiarize, do not follow the above directions, or fail to submit the essay by Thursday, April 16, 2015, you will receive a grade of 0. No late essays will be accepted.

If you are not a native English speaker, please ask someone who is to take a look at your essay before you submit it.

Please note that your essay must be submitted via eCampus (email attachments will not be accepted) and will be checked by an anti-plagiarism program (SafeAssign). If any part of your essay is plagiarized, it will receive a grade of 0.

JOURNALS
Counting as 10 points of your grade (5 points for each entry), you are required to keep a journal throughout this semester. Keeping a journal allows you the opportunity to think through your own views of the spiritual, or religious, as we discuss the world’s major religions in class.

Though this assignment will be graded, the grade will be determined by how well you follow the assignment, not on what you share in the journal itself. Also, because the content of your journals may contain personal and private information, the information and the journals themselves will be kept confidential and private.

To fulfill this assignment you will need to follow a few simple steps.
1. Use your own words, not those of other sources. Don’t use footnotes or refer to other sources (including the textbook).
2. Put your name and journal entry number at the top of the first page.
3. The entry must be at least 300 words. If it isn’t, it will receive a reduced grade.
4. Indent the first line of each paragraph, and remember that a paragraph must have at least three sentences.
5. Use Times New Roman 12-point font and double spacing in a Microsoft Word document.
6. Please check for typos and grammatical errors (particularly run-on and incomplete sentences). An entry that contains too many typos and poor grammar will receive a reduced grade.
7. If you plagiarize, do not follow the above directions, or fail to submit the entries by the due dates (Sunday, January 25, 2015 for journal entry 1 and Friday, April 17, 2015 for journal entry 2), you will receive a grade of 0. No late essays will be accepted.

If you are not a native English speaker, please ask someone who is to take a look at your essay before you submit it.

**Journal Entry 1:** Share a short biography about your religious background. This entry is due by Sunday, January 25, 2015.

**Journal Entry 2:** What has changed, if anything, in your personal beliefs about religion? (This assignment is to be completed when you have finished the reading for this course.) This entry is due by Friday, April 17, 2015.

Please note that all journal entries must be submitted via eCampus (email attachments will not be accepted) and will be checked by an anti-plagiarism program (SafeAssign). If any part of your entry is plagiarized, it will receive a grade of 0.