Syllabus for Philosophy 1304: Introduction to World Religions
Brookhaven College and Dallas Telecollege
Social Science

Spring 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION: PHIL1304: Introduction to World Religions. Section 23401/93401

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:

1. Ms. Beni Mayer
2. bmayer@dcccd.edu (972-860-7444, Ext 9245)
3. It is best to reach me through email.

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 CoreCurriculum courses.

PHIL 1304 requires access to a computer, the Internet and an active e-mail account (if applicable). Free access is also available in campus computer labs. Software requirements are listed on http://ecampus.dcccd.edu.

To access eCampus use a lower case e followed by your student ID number for the username and password, i.e. e1234567. You will be able to change your password.

If you should have any technical difficulties, you may go to the http://ecampus.dcccd.edu. Click on the link “Web: Technical Support” and submit a ticket (the fastest way to get help) or call the number listed. Also alert your instructor concerning any technical problems. (if applicable). eCampus Student Tutorials are also available through this website.

Most of the things you need to know about Brookhaven College or the Dallas County Community Colleges and distance education can be found online at: http://www.brookhavencollege.edu and distance learning information at http://online.dcccd.edu/
Basic skills for word processing and how to use of the Internet are required.

**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.

**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. ttps://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/dw.cfm?use_nav=acad_info&loc=econ
STOP BEFORE YOU DROP: For students who enroll 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 college counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated six 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

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 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.

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 S-136 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.

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of 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.

REPEATING THIS COURSE: Each college of the DCCCD charges 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 being charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts included courses taken at any of the DCCCD colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. The District’s policy for tuition charges relating to a third attempt is in the college’s catalog. https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm?loc=econ

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.

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

Please note: INSTRUCTOR’S RIGHT TO MODIFY: The instructor has the right to add, delete, or revise segments of this course syllabus 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.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR REGULAR SEMESTER LENGTH COURSES:

January 20 (T) Classes Begin
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

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

COMPLETING THE COURSE
The class schedule, required readings and assignments are found under the Assignments tab on the class website. Note: before proceeding with course work, you must complete and submit the Orientation Form found under the Orientation tab; otherwise, any course work you submit will not be reviewed and any tests you take will receive a grade of 0 until the Orientation Form is submitted.

The course is divided into six units. Each unit should be completed entirely before proceeding
to the next unit. Take the **final exam** after you have completed all six units and the **unit tests**. The **final exam is comprehensive**, that is, it covers the five major religions studied in the course.

These are closed book tests, so you cannot use your textbook or any other book or device to help you with the questions. Using a book or other device while taking the test is cheating.

*Note the target date for completing each unit. 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 that if you fall behind, catching up at the end of the course will be difficult, if not impossible. **It is your responsibility to complete all units and the final exam no later than midnight on May 14, 2015.**

The course also has four Discussions. **Each discussion has a due date.** You will find discussion requirements explained below under GRADING PROCEDURES and in the Guidelines for Class Discussions under the Discussion Board tab.

**The essay has a due date as well as a due date for the topic.** You will find the essay requirements explained below under GRADING PROCEDURES and in the Assignments tab.

**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, Fifth Edition* and other assigned readings listed for each unit. The complete schedule of readings and assignments is posted under the Assignments tab.
2. Taking all tests and the final exam. These are posted under the Assignments tab.
3. Turning in a minimum 1,000 word essay. Instructions for the essay can be found under the Assignments tab. (See grading rubric found under the Course Information tab.)
4. Participating in four class discussions, found under the Discussion Board tab.

**GRADING PROCEDURES** Grades will be based on a scale of 754 points, distributed as follows:

- **Six tests at 104 possible points each = 624 points**
  (There are six test on each of the main units covered. These are closed book tests, so you cannot use your textbook or any other book or device to help you with the questions. **Using a book or other device while taking the test is cheating.** Each test will have 26 multiple choice questions.)

- **Final exam = 100 points**
  (The final will contain a mix of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. Again, this is
a closed book test, so you cannot use your textbook or any other book or device to help you with the questions. Using a book or other device while taking the test is cheating.)

**Essay = 10 points**
(You will write an essay of 1,000 to 3,000 words on the topic listed as Essay under the Assignments tab. The grading rubric for this paper is listed under the Course Information tab.)

**Discussion = 20 points**
(5 points possible for each discussion, 4 discussions)
NOTE: In order to receive credit for any one discussion, you must include a minimum of TWO posts of a minimum of 100 words each: either 1) a thread and a response or 2) two responses. In addition, posts must be submitted by the discussion deadline.

**TOTAL = 754 points**

Grade distribution:
A = 679 - 754 points
B = 604 - 678 points
C = 528 – 603 points
D = 453 - 527 points
F = 452 or fewer points

**UNIT 1: UNDERSTANDING RELIGION**
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.
**Target date: Feb. 4th**
**Readings:**
Molloy, chapter 1
Take Test 1

**DISCUSSION 1**
**Due date: Feb. 6th**

**ESSAY TOPIC DUE:** email by midnight on Feb. 17 to bmayer@dcccd.edu

**UNIT 2: JUDAISM**
Objectives: After completing Unit 2, 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.
**Target date: Feb. 23**
**Readings:**
Molloy, chapter 8
Holy Bible, Genesis chapters 1-4; 12-13; 15-18
DISCUSSION 2: Due date: March 3rd

UNIT 3: CHRISTIANITY
Objectives: After completing Unit 3, 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.

Target date: March 16

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
Lumen Gentium, chapter I: 2, 3, 4, 5, 8; chapter III: 18
Orthodoxy: Tradition
What do Lutherans believe?
Anglicanism: History
Anglicanism: What It Means
Presbyterian 101
Presbyterian 101: Church History
Presbyterian 101: Theology
American Baptists: A Brief History
American Baptists: 10 Facts
The National Baptist Convention
The Southern Baptist Convention
The Southern Baptist Convention: Basic Beliefs
Unitarian Universalist Principles
Unitarian Universalist Beliefs

UNIT 4: ISLAM
Objectives: After completing Unit 4, 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.

Target date: March 30
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

spend a minimum of 20 minutes exploring the website: www.islamicity.com
spend a minimum of 20 minutes exploring the website: www.islamworld.net

The Place of Tolerance in Islam
I was a Fanatic . . . I know their thinking (found under Course Documents tab)
Take Test 4

DISCUSSION 3: Due date: March 31

ESSAY DUE! April 21st by midnight. Submit through the SafeAssign link provided.

UNIT 5: HINDUISM
Objectives: After completing Unit 5, 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.
Target date: April 23
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 5

DISCUSSION 4: Due date: May 5

UNIT 6: BUDDHISM
Objectives: After completing Unit 6, 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.
Target date: May 14
Readings:
Molloy, chapter 4
Zen Koans (read at least 20 - your choice)
Take Test 6

Take Final Exam
Last day to submit all tests and final exam: Thursday, May 14, 2015 by midnight.