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

Spring 2017

COURSE DESCRIPTION: PHIL1304: Introduction to World Religions. Section 23407

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
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. Basic skills for word processing and how to use the Internet are required.

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/

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.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES:

Please click on the following link to be aware of institutional policies at Brookhaven that may impact you as a student.

http://alt.brookhavencollege.edu/employees/faculty/Documents/BCSyllabus_Addendum.pdf
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:

March 20 (M) Class Begins
April 29 (Sat) Last Day to Withdraw
May 11 (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.

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 11.

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.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 1
Take Test 1

DISCUSSION 1
Due Date: March 30
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.

Readings:
Molloy, chapter 8
Holy Bible, Genesis chapters 1-4; 12-13; 15-18
Holy Bible, Exodus chapters 3; 11-12; 20
Psalms 22; 23; 31; 32; 42; 137
Holy Bible, Isaiah 53
Spend a minimum of 20 minutes exploring the website: http://library.columbia.edu/subject-guides/jewishstudies.html
Take Test 2

ESSAY TOPIC DUE: email by midnight on April 3rd to bmayer@dcccd.edu

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.

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
DISCUSSION 2: Due date: April 13.

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.

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: April 20th.

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.

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

ESSAY DUE! April 27th by midnight. Submit through the SafeAssign link provided.

DISCUSSION 4: Due date: May 4th.

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.

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 11, 2017 by midnight.