MAJOR RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD
Spring/Winter Term 2018 (12/11/17 - 01/05/18)

Richland College                Instructor: Ashvina Patel
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Performing Arts                  Virtual office hours: By App

Course Information:
PHIL 1304. 82489
Credit hours: (3)
Class meets: On-line, eCampus site

Required Texts:

Key Dates:
Spring Course: 12/11/17 - 01/05/18
Certification Date: ‘See Online Academic Calendar’
Drop Deadline: ‘See Online Academic Calendar’

Financial Aid Participation and Attendance Policy:
Your instructor is required by law to validate/certify your attendance in your on-campus
or online course(s) in order for you to receive financial aid. To meet the attendance
requirement, you must attend/login AND participate in our course by completing either
the self-introduction assignment or submitting the avoiding plagiarism assignment prior
to the course certification date, and continue participating beyond the course withdrawal
date. In an online class, simply logging in is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate
academic attendance. You must demonstrate that you are participating in your online
class and are engaged in an academically related activity such as the examples described
above.

Description:
A comparative study of world religions, including but not limited to Hinduism,
Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. (3 Lec.)

More specifically, 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.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
Read, analyze, and critique religious texts.
Demonstrate knowledge of beliefs, practices, values, and terminology of major world religions. Trace the historical developments and cultural expressions of world religions.
Articulate key conceptual distinctions in world religions.
Communicate understanding of world religions, orally or in writing.
Communicate ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse religious beliefs.

Core Objectives:
This course satisfies the following Core Curriculum Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
• Critical Thinking Skills--to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
• Communication Skills--to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
• Social Responsibility— to include intercultural competency, 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.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:
□ (4) Discussions & Video Response: 30%
□ (4) Journal & Audio Activities: 20%
□ (5) Reading Quizzes: 30%
□ (1) Final Project: 20%

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

Plagiarism is taken very seriously. Submitting work that is not your own, (e.g., copying from another student, book, article, video and/or a website) will result in a 0 for the assignment and possibly for the entire 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.

**Please make note of the Richland College Humanities Plagiarism Policy:**
All instances of plagiarism will be reported whether they are found in Discussion Boards, Journals, or Paper Assignments.

1st instance of Plagiarism - Fail the assignment  
2nd instance of Plagiarism - Fail the course  
3rd instance of Plagiarism - Possible academic probation/ suspension/expulsion (this is decided at the VP level)

Below is a link to Institutional Policies, please make yourselves familiar [https://alt.richlandcollege.edu/employees/syllabus](https://alt.richlandcollege.edu/employees/syllabus)

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