



Great World Religions

Philosophy 243.01

Fall 2019

Number of Credits: 3

Office: NA

Days Class Meets: Wednesdays

Contact Phone: NA

Meeting Times: 6:00 pm to 8:54 pm

Contact Email: hicksbradley@jccmi.edu

Location: J. Whiting Hall, Room 101

Office Hours: 5:30 to 6pm and 9pm to 9:30pm
on Wednesdays when the class meets

Instructor: Brad Hicks

Online: NA

Course Description

The course will provide students with a global perspective on the human religious experience through an introductory examination of the beliefs and practices of the world's largest religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

Prerequisite(s)

ENG 085 and ENG 090

Course Goals

The course will introduce students to the basic concepts and vocabulary that define and describe the religions noted above. Students will read portions of sacred scriptures and provide written reports that analyze the texts and apply the truths of the texts to their lives and culture. Students will create a mock charity to serve a real humanitarian need in the world. The textbook readings will be complemented by classroom lectures and discussions that help explain and apply religious truths beyond their religious contexts. Exams will be multiple choice, matching, and short answer. Study guides for note-taking purposes and for exam review are provided.

Course Objectives

GEO / STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Our GEO Outcome is GEO 7 (Core Competence): Understand and respect the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures. We will further describe this course in the following student learning outcomes.

Student Learning Outcome 1: At the end of instruction, the successful student should be able to define important terminology and discuss factual information regarding concepts, beliefs, values and principles related to each religion.

Assessment of Outcome: Exams, Weekly Homework, Reading Analyses, and your own personal reflections (Truth Essays) will be utilized to assess your knowledge of and interaction with another culture's beliefs, vocabulary, values, and guiding principles. As charity is a value and guiding principle of our religions, students will research a local charity and also create a mock charity intended to serve a global community.

Student Learning Outcome 2: At the end of instruction, the successful student should be able to describe the important historical and cultural factors that helped shape the teachings and practices in each religion.

Assessment of Outcome: Exams and Weekly Homework Assignments will be the primary method for assessing a student's knowledge and retention of important historical and cultural factors that shaped the teachings and practices of each religion. A Truth Essay will offer the student an opportunity to apply truths from our religions to his or her everyday life.

Student Learning Outcome 3: At the end of instruction, the successful student should be able to explain the nature of and relationship between the Divine, the universe, and humankind for each religion.

Assessment of Outcome: Exams, Weekly Homework and Sacred Scripture Reading Analyses will assess the student's knowledge and retention of each religion's worldview.

Student Learning Outcome 4: At the end of instruction, the successful student will have read portions of the sacred scriptures associated with each religion and be able to identify specific styles, genres, themes, authors, and purposes for these scriptures with additional application to contemporary issues and topics.

Assessment of Outcome: A sacred scripture reading analysis will be the primary method of assessing this outcome.

Student Learning Outcome 5: At the end of instruction, the successful student will consider the truths and principles of each religion and discover ways to apply these truths and principles to his or her own life, identifying and analyzing their own worldview components.

Assessment of Outcome: Weekly Homework, Reading Analyses, Truth Essays (personal reflections), and a student's own worldview essay will assess truths that he or she considers important to their way of seeing, interpreting, and living in their world.

On the course learning platform, a student will find a detailed description of the above referenced assignments and templates to assist in completing the assignments successfully. A brief summary of the assignments is provided below. We will discuss course assignments in class and answer any questions.

Textbook

Experiencing The World's Religions, Michael Molloy (6th or 7th Edition). There will be additional (free) readings and videos assigned with links available on our course platform.

A digital version of the textbook is available at www.redshelf.com:

<https://www.redshelf.com/item/10911/smartbook-online-access-for-experiencing-the-worlds-religions-9781259324475-1259324478>

Grading Procedure

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Three Exams | 190 points |
| Reading Analyses | 70 points |
| Two Truth Essays | 30 points |
| Charity Project | 20 points |
| Participation / Attendance | 45 points |
| Program Assessment | 45 points |
| Total: | 400 points |

THREE EXAMS AND A PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

The three exams will occur after units of study. The Program Assessment will occur at the end of the course and cover basic factors associated with our Student Learning Outcomes. The exams are mostly matching and multiple choice with a few short answer questions.

FOUR READING ANALYSES

For four of the religions we study, I will provide readings from sacred scriptures. You will analyze the scriptures by way of study questions that I provide. The questions will necessitate answers written (typed) in paragraphs with appropriate grammar and substantive content. This is not an assignment that asks you to summarize the readings but to identify truths, principles, values, ethics, morals and ideals in the passage.

TWO TRUTH ESSAYS

This essay assignments asks you to identify a truth that you appreciate from our course studies. You will analyze this truth and apply it to your life in three ways. In general, you will follow this format: "I am not (name of religion), but this is a truth I found in this religion and I can apply it to my life in the following three ways." One essay will be written for our Eastern Religions and another essay written for the covenant-based religions.

CHARITY REPORT

Using a research template provided, you will research the needs associated with a group of people in a geographical locale outside the United States. Given your research, you will then create a mock or fictitious charity to meet the identified needs of the people group. Again, I provide a template to help you complete this assignment.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Class participation is an important part of the learning process for this course. Students will be involved in class discussions and group projects during class time. Outside readings and assignments are viewed as preparation for in-class activities. Some students are not as talkative as others. If this is true of you, I will observe your "active engagement" in the course so as not to be penalized for being somewhat (but not completely) quiet. Attendance will count as 60% of the points associated with this grade item; participation will count as 40% of the points associated with this grade item.

Grading Scale

| GPA | GRADE RANGE |
|-----|-------------|
| 4.0 | 94-100% |
| 3.5 | 89-93% |
| 3.0 | 84-88% |
| 2.5 | 78-83% |
| 2.0 | 72-77% |
| 1.5 | 66-71% |
| 1.0 | 60-65% |
| 0.5 | 55-59% |
| 0.0 | 0-54% |

Classroom Etiquette

In our course, we will be discussing perspectives and points of view that are, at times, different from our own. Disparaging comments about people or cultures will not be tolerated. Profanity will not be tolerated. A student may be removed from the classroom if their participation is viewed as hurtful and harmful to others. In addition, excessive noise (talking out of turn, food items) that are viewed as disruptive to the learning environment may invite warnings and a dismissal from the classroom or course. As outlined below, plagiarism and cheating are cause for dismissal from this course.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

Submitting other's work as your own.

Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation.

Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism).

Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

Plagiarizing in any form.

Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization.

Copying and Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others.

Altering graded work.

Falsifying data.

Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical.

Allowing your work to be submitted by others

Late Assignments and Missed Exams

Assignments will be accepted up to 72 hours after a due date by way of a dropbox. A missed exam will need to be completed at the Testing Center before the next class meets on our schedule. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of the course.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is not provided in this course by way of extra assignments. There will be extra questions on each exam. This will allow students to earn extra points throughout the course. There may be up to 10 to fifteen points of extra credit that can be earned on exams.

Assistance

I encourage students to contact me for assistance and support. Also, students should familiarize themselves with support services available at Jackson College and the Center for Student Success. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact me and the Center for Student Success as soon as possible to better ensure that helpful accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. I am a former rehabilitation specialist and am open to helping students succeed in a variety of ways.

Per Jackson College and the Center for Student Success: While we will make every effort to coordinate accommodations in a timely manner, failure to self-identify prior to the start of the semester may delay notification to instructors and timeliness of acquiring accommodations. Accommodations do not automatically carry over to the next semester. Please consult the following website for details about the various services available at Jackson College for students seeking assistance and accommodations.

<https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities/>

Calendar

The following represents a tentative schedule. The reading assignments that are noted correspond to the course materials on the same date. A student should come to class having read the assigned materials. If we deviate from the course schedule, students will be made aware of the changes in the class and by email.

| WEEK # | Date | TOPIC | HOMEWORK |
|----------|----------|--------------|--|
| One | 9-4-19 | Introduction | Read pages 1 to 11 (textbook) |
| Two | 9-11-19 | Hinduism | Read: pages 3 to 20, 26 to 29 (6th or 7th editions) Read: pages 73 to 80 (6th and 7th editions) |
| Three | 9-18-19 | Hinduism | Read: pages 80 to 106 (6th) or pages 80 to 105 (7th) |
| Four | 9-25-19 | Buddhism | Read: pages 123-161 (6th) or pages 119-154 (7th) Reading Analysis for Hinduism Due |
| Five | 10-2-19 | Buddhism | Read: pages 164-177 (6th) or pages 157-170 (7th) |
| Six | 10-9-19 | Exam | |
| Seven | 10-16-19 | Judaism | Read: pages 281-295 (6th) or pages 271-284 (7th) Reading Analysis for Buddhism Due |
| Eight | 10-23-19 | Judaism | Read: pages 300-305, 313-327 (6th) or pages 289-292, 301-314 (7th) First Truth Essay Due |
| Nine | 10-30-19 | Christianity | Read: pages 333-357 (6th) or pages 319-342 (7th) |
| Ten | 11-6-19 | Christianity | Read: pages 370-390 (6th) or pages 355-375 (7th) |
| Eleven | 11-13-19 | Exam | |
| Twelve | 11-20-19 | Islam | Read: pages 407-427 (6th) or pages 389-408 (7th) Reading Analysis for Christianity Due |
| Thirteen | 11-27-19 | Islam | Read: pages 427-448 (6th) or pages 408-427 (7th) Charity Report Due |
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|----------|----------|----------------------------|--|
| Fourteen | 12-4-19 | Afterlife and Spirituality | Read: pages 454-466 (6th) or pages 432-444 (7th) Reading Analysis for Islam Due |
| Fifteen | 12-11-19 | Exam and Course Assessment | Second Truth Essay Due |
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Attendance Reporting Policy

In compliance with Federal Title IV funding requirements, as well as college initiatives, reporting of student participation in classes will occur at three designated times each semester. Instructors will assign one of three non-transcripted letter symbols to each student during each reporting period (see below). Students identified as no longer participating will be dropped or administratively withdrawn from the class, and students identified as needing academic assistance will be contacted.

Participation/Progress Symbols

H – The student is not doing acceptable work and needs **H**elp to be successful.

Q – The student has not participated and the instructor believes they have unofficially withdrawn (**Q**uit). These students will be dropped/withdrawn from the class.

V – The instructor **V**erifies that the student is participating and doing acceptable work.