



COURSE OUTLINE : PHILO 115

D Credit – Degree Applicable

COURSE ID 010280

Cyclical Review: October 2016

Revision: September 2021

COURSE DISCIPLINE : PHILO
COURSE NUMBER : 115
COURSE TITLE (FULL) : Religions of the World
COURSE TITLE (SHORT) : Religions of the World
ACADEMIC SENATE DISCIPLINE: Philosophy

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHILO 115 is a comparative study of the salient ideas and philosophical developments in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and prehistoric and national religions of the past.

Total Lecture Units:3.00

Total Laboratory Units: 0.00

Total Course Units: 3.00

Total Lecture Hours:54.00

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.00

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.00

Total Contact Hours: 54.00

Total Out-of-Class Hours: 108.00

Recommended Preparation: ENGL 100 or ESL 151.



ENTRY STANDARDS

	Subject	Number	Title	Description	Include
1	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	Read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories to identify topic, thesis, support, transitions, conclusion, audience, and tone;	Yes
2	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories for the comprehension of difficult content and the identification of main ideas and (topic-based) evidence;	Yes
3	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate student compositions for unity, development, use of evidence, interpretation, coherence, and variety of sentence form;	Yes
4	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write a summary of a contemporary article or story with correct citation techniques;	Yes
5	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that has an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, demonstrating a basic understanding of essay organization;	Yes
6	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that addresses the topic, is directed by a thesis statement, uses appropriate textual evidence, develops logical interpretations, and concludes with some compelling observations;	Yes
7	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that integrates the ideas of others (i.e., authors) through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting with correct citation techniques;	Yes
8	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that generates novel ideas (those that add to the conversation rather than repeating the author's ideas) related to the topic and the readings;	Yes
9	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write compositions (e.g., summaries and argumentative essays) that are easy to read and follow, though some errors in grammar, mechanics, spelling, or diction may exist;	Yes
10	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	proofread and edit essays for content, language, citation, and formatting problems.	Yes
11	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	Read and critically analyze various academic readings;	Yes
12	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	summarize readings;	Yes
13	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	organize fully-developed essays in both expository and argumentative modes;	Yes



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14	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	compose a 500 to 550-word essay which: summarizes and cites appropriately a reading passage; includes a clear thesis statement; uses evidence to support the thesis; shows clear organization into an introduction, body, and conclusion;	Yes
15	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	revise writing to eliminate errors in syntax, and grammatical constructions;	Yes
16	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	employ basic library research techniques;	Yes
17	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	compose one research paper (1,000 words) or two short research papers (500-700 words each) with citations.	Yes

EXIT STANDARDS

- 1 read and comprehend selected sections from the primary text of the Eastern and Western Traditions;
- 2 identify and cogently summarize philosophical and theological theories and supporting arguments held by members of comparative religions;
- 3 participate in critical discussions/dialogue of opposing world views with respect;
- 4 write discursive/exploratory essays which demonstrate their individual perspective and supporting arguments on world religions.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 interpret and summarize both selected primary and secondary sources;
- 2 identify and explain the historical cultural and intellectual contexts within which fundamental philosophical concerns are raised;
- 3 critically evaluate the argument relating to the world views presented in various eastern and western schools of philosophy;
- 4 demonstrate the ability to compose critical and analytical responses in writing to the philosophical issues/ideas inherent in the eastern and western world views.

COURSE CONTENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

	Description	Lecture	Lab	Total Hours
1	Introduction to Philosophy and Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A theological approach • A philosophical approach • A historical approach 	2	0	2
2	Native American Religions Original African Religions Pre-Christian European Religions	6	0	6



3	<p>Zoroastrianism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From ancient myths to the philosophy of ethical dualism 	2	0	2
4	<p>Hinduism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The early Hinduism of the Vedas and the Brahmanas • The philosophy of the Upanishads • The philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita • Major ideas of Hinduism • Four major concepts: Brahman, Atman, Karma, SamSara, and Moksa Four ends of human life: Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksa • Four levels of human consciousness: Waking, Dream, Deep Sleep, and Liberation • The four ways to Moksa: work, action, devotion and meditation • Four tasks: Priests, Common Warriors, Merchants, Laborers • The six systems of orthodox Hindu philosophy • The Nyaya system • The Vaisheshika system • The Samkhya system • The Yoga system • The Purva-mimansa system • The Vedanta system • Popular Hinduism and modern Hinduism • Thinkers in the 20th century: Aurobindo Ghose Mahatma Gandhi Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan 	6	0	6



5	<p>Buddhism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The life and teaching of Gautama • Four Noble Truths • Metaphysical speculation • View of the self Reinterpretation of transmigration and karma • Ethics • The rise and spread of Buddhism • Comparison of Hinayana Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism • The Mahayana philosophies of religion • The Madhyamika (or Intermmediate) school • The Yogacara (or Idealist) school • The views of Buddhist sects • The Pure Land sects • The Intuitive sects • The Rationalists sects • The Mystery or True Word sect • The Socio-political sect • Lamaism • Buddhism today • International group movements • The philosophy of Kitaro Nishida • Zen Buddhism • The view of experience • The role of nature • The concept of the human • The doctrine of no-mind • The emphasis on paradox • Satori or enlightenment 	7	0	7
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6	Other Indian Religions	6	0	6
	<p>Jainism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy and ethics of Jainism • Concept of karma • Concept of matter • Concept of the soul • Concept of moksha • Concept of ahimsa • Mahavira's followers • Sectarian developments • Jainist logic <p>Sikhism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanak's life and teachings • Interpretation of monotheism • View of maya • Iconoclasm • Other syncretistic elements • The political history of Sikhism • The succession of gurus • The compilation of the Granth or the Sikh Holy text • Changing attitudes towards warfare 			



7	<p>Chinese Religions (6 hours)</p> <p>Taoism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao-tzu in Chinese tradition • The Tao Te Ching • The concept of the Tao • The ethics of wu-wei • The notion of opposites • The theory of government <p>Chuang-tzu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The doctrine of “transformations of the Tao” • The epistemology • The aesthetics • The primitivism • The magical phase of Taoism • Taoism as a religion • The role of the emperors • The transformation into theism • The worship of gods and spirits • The effect on the birthday and marriage ceremonies of the Chinese people <p>Confucianism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confucius life and teachings • The theory of the rectification of names • The beginning of the doctrine of the mean • Ethical concepts: Jen, Li, Hsiao, Chengmeng, and Chun Tzu • His social and political philosophy • His views on filial piety and religion 	7	0	7
8	<p>Judaism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew beginnings • Covenant: the religious role of history; Exiles and restorations of Biblical narrative • The Rabbinic Age: “Listening” to the Torah • The Middle Ages: Judaism in the Islamic and European worlds • Modern travails and transformations 	6	0	6



9	<p>Christianity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of a messianic Judaism: The life of Jesus • Sin and Paul's revision of the Covenant • Christianity: from persecution to Christendom • Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Protestantism • Modern Christianity 	6	0	6
10	<p>Islam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consummation of the Prophets: Muhammad's life and teachings • Expansion and civilization: the successes of the Caliphates • Religions law and theology • Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi • Islam in the contemporary world 	6	0	6
				54

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 1 essays (e.g. an essay analyzing the Nyaya and Vaisheshika theories of knowledge in India philosophy);
- 2 group project (e.g. a written outline of Buddhist ethics);
- 3 class presentation (e.g., oral presentation on the concept of soul in Hinduism and Christianity)

METHODS OF EVALUATION

- 1 midterm examinations and a final examination requiring demonstration of course exit standards;
- 2 written assignments demonstrating the critical analysis of the theory and its supporting argument;
- 3 group discussions;
- 4 class participation demonstrating course exist standards.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Lecture
- Laboratory
- Studio
- Discussion
- Multimedia
- Tutorial
- Independent Study



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- Collaboratory Learning
- Demonstration
- Field Activities (Trips)
- Guest Speakers
- Presentations

TEXTBOOKS

Title	Type	Publisher	Edition	Medium	Author	ISBN	Date
Anthology of World Scriptures	Required	Wadsworth	8	Print	Robert E. Van Voorst	9781133934448	2014
Asian Philosophies	Required	Pearson	2	Print	John Koller	978-0-205-16898-9	2013
The World's Religions: World views and contemporary issues	Required	Pearson	4	Print	William A. Young	978-0-205-91761-7	2013
The World's Religions	Required	Harper Collins		Print	Huston Smith	978-0061660184	2010