

PHIL 210: World Religions Spring 2010

WNC, Monday & Wednesday 9:30-10:45 am (Cedar 313)

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: None

Transferability: Transfer to institutions within UCCSN as PHIL 210.

Fulfills: Humanities requirement for Transfer & General Education Degrees. **This course links to the following "General Education Student Learning Outcomes"** in the 2009-2010 WNC catalog http://www.wnc.edu/academics/general_education/ :

Students who complete a degree at WNC are expected to demonstrate they:

- have college-level skills in reading, writing, and oral communication.
- have problem solving, creative, and critical thinking skills.
- understand the importance of cultural traditions, diversity, and ethics in the modern world.

Instructor: Susan Priest

Email: spriest@wncc.edu

Office: Cedar 311

Phone: 775-445-3318

Office Hours (1/25 – 5/10/10): Monday and Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30 PM; Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 – 5:00 PM. *I am also available at other times, by appointment.*

****NOTE – Office Hours may change during the semester, but I will announce this online and update my website if this happens.**

MY Website: www.susanpriest.com *Check it out and tell me what you think! Class syllabi and other helpful hints are located on the website.*

This is an Enhanced Class: Login to WebCampus: (online learning platform):

<http://webcampus.wnc.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>. If you have never done this before read first time directions here: <http://www.wnc.edu/webcampus/login.php>. IF you have problems with your log in, contact the Reference Librarians at (775-445-3227.) They will help you. Please, also let me know if you are experiencing difficulty.

Take advantage of your instructor's Office Hours ☺!

I) Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce you to the major religions of the world – Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Using a variety of methodological approaches (historical, anthropological and experiential) we will attempt to flesh out what defines **The Sacred** in the world's religions.

At the end of the course, you will have increased your awareness of the major religions – their myth, symbol, ritual, doctrine, moral codes, architecture and artistic expression. You will recognize the differences among the religious traditions. You will better understand the religious issues and conflicts in the modern world.

II) Course Objectives:

- A) To **increase awareness** and **appreciation** of the world's religions by seeking to understand how they name **The Sacred**.
- B) To learn the **basic moral tenants, doctrines** and **religious practices** of the world's major religions.

- C) To identify differences in **myth, ritual, symbol, architecture and artistic expression** among the world's religions.
- D) To improve **critical thinking skills** in oral and written communication.

III) **Methods of Instruction:**

Class may involve a combination of activities including: lecture, class discussion, music appreciation, viewing films and video/ritual analysis.

IV) **Course Requirements ~ Student Responsibilities:**

A) **Preparation, Attendance & Participation (50 Points)**

Preparation: It is important to be at every class, and be prepared to participate in class discussion. Being prepared includes **completing 100% of reading assignments** and being ready to discuss them. Use the Calendar of Assignments and Study Guide to prepare for class discussions. For a study of world religions, being prepared also includes being open to new ideas.

Attendance & Participation:

- "90% of success is showing up." Woody Allen
- Without you class is not the same. Plan to attend every session.
- You will receive **two points** for every class you attend and in which you participate (except for Final Exam Day.)
- If you are late to class, leave early or do not participate you will receive a fraction of those **two points**.
- For this course, absences in excess of 3 classes may be considered excessive. If you have an emergency, please contact the instructor.
- Poor attendance = poor grade.

A word on participation and discussion in World Religion: It is important to remember that this course is not designed to "convert" anyone. As we enter into conversations about deeply held beliefs and issues of faith it will be helpful to locate our conversation within the academic field of philosophy. All world religions are philosophies. (Note: Philosophy comes from two Greek words which roughly translate = to love wisdom.) Our goal will be to create a respectful forum for discussing and exploring the wisdom of the world's religions.

B) **Tests (150 Points)**

There will be 3 Tests throughout the semester on religious terminology (*use World Religions Study Guide - Terminology List handout*) and reading assignments (*refer to page 6-7 of this syllabus – IX Calendar of Assignments.*) These Tests are worth 75 points each and may include short answer definitions, multiple choice questions and/or brief essays. **No make-up Tests will be given.** I will drop the lowest Test grade.

C) Homework, Activities & Writing Assignments (175 Points)

Activities – Throughout of the semester there will be a few brief assignments for which you will receive points. See Calendar of Assignments (p.6-7) for Due Dates:

- ❑ **Pre- & Post-Test “Assessment” in World Religions** – This 2-part assessment will be given in class Week 1 and Week 15. You will earn 15 points for completing each brief assessment. **(30 points)**
- ❑ **Introductory Writing Assignment using “TURN-IT-IN” within WebCampus.** All writing assignments will be submitted electronically via Turnitin.com within WebCampus. There is a writing prompt ready for you right now! This Intro Assignment is Due: by the end of Week 2, 2/5/09 by Friday at 11:59. This assignment will help you familiarize yourself with the paper submission process, and give you practice writing philosophically. **Late papers will lose 5 points per week. (25 points)**
- ❑ **Facilitate a discussion of one of the World’s Religions** – The first day of class there will be a sign up for you to participate as a class facilitator. You will need to work with the other students signed up for that day to bring in questions and/or activities for class to help explore the religion that week. Guidelines and suggestions will be handed out in class. Week 2-15 (except for Test Days) **(20 points)**

Writing Assignments – Two short papers (3-6 pages) are designed to give each student an opportunity to reflect critically on religious texts and themes from different faith traditions. Through your encounters with these sacred stories and poems you will gain a deeper understanding of the religions of the world. Use **primary source material**¹ to explore the essay topics. You will find suggested topics on WebCampus.

50 points (max) are given for each writing assignment. I will deduct 5 points each week that a paper is late. The last time you can turn in a late paper is two weeks after it is due. **There are no re-writes.**

- ❑ **Writing Assignment 1 – Due end of week 6 – March 5, 2010.**
- ❑ **Writing Assignment 2 – Due end of week 10 – April 10, 2010.**

ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WE BE EVALUATED ON THE FOLLOWING:

Composition (15 Points)

- The writing assignments should be typed (double-spaced) and 3-6 pages in length.
- Please include your name, PHIL 210- C01 and the date in the upper left hand corner of the paper. You need to use MLA style to format and there must be pages numbers on every page.
- **Citing References:** Every time you include a direct quote or refer to an idea mentioned in the book, you need to include a reference note. For this class, please include author’s name and page # in parentheses. (e.g., If you are referring to ideas on the nature of religion that you read about in your textbook (on page 6) your note should look like this: (Molloy 6))²

¹ By primary source material, I mean actual sacred texts or collections of prayers, poems, rituals and stories from different religious traditions. The World’s Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World’s Religions, Ed. By Philip Novak is a compilation of source material.

² You may need to outside research and I want you to get in the habit of properly documenting ideas, which is a part of all scholarly writing. For philosophy courses you should be using MLA format -- Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th Ed. New York: The Modern Language

- Proper punctuation, grammar and spelling. (*Don't just rely on the computer spell checker, proof read your assignment before you turn it in.*)
- Clear writing style.³

A Word on Plagiarism: When you properly cite references you avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense in writing papers and all academic coursework. **“Plagiarism = taking any idea or writing that is not your own and including it in your paper without citing your source.** For example, if you go to a website and take information or sentences from that website and do not cite that website in your paper, you are plagiarizing...This also includes using the textbook, quoting it, or describing a philosopher's view not your own without citing the page from which you took the information.”⁴ **Plagiarizing = F.**

Content (35 points) ask yourself these questions before you turn in the assignment:

- Have you clearly stated a thesis on a philosophical, theological, literary, artistic or historical aspect of the religion in question?
- Have you addressed the assigned essay topic?
- Have you fully explored the nuances of the sacred texts?
- Have you accurately represented the religious tradition? (*While you may believe your comments are simply a matter of opinion, it is possible to misread and misrepresent a sacred text.*)
- Is your brief essay a collection of random thoughts or a coherent series of interrelated thoughts? (*You are striving for the second.*)

D) Term Project (75 points)

Choose one of the following projects. All term projects are **due by Week 15 – May 14, 2010**. You **may** receive extra points for presenting your project to class on May 10th or 12th. No term project will be accepted after Wednesday May 19th and you may lose points if your project is turned in late.

1. Attend a church/temple service of a religion different from the one in which you were raised. Write a response paper (**6-7 pages**) that includes details of the service that you attended (a funeral is not generally representative), a copy of the bulletin, description of the architecture, artistic expression that you experienced, and some analysis of the service you attended. The more detail you include the better.
2. Create on paper (**8-10 pages**) a new religion. Include details such as – Doctrines, Moral Tenants, Beliefs, Ritual, Sacred Places, Drawings of Art & Architecture, Sacred Literature, etc. The more details you include the better.
3. Design your own project (**8-10 pages**) (e.g., research paper of new religious movement or aspect of one of the religions that we have covered.) Please plan to consult the instructor before you hand in your term project if you desire to design your own.

Association, 2003. You may also consult: <http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.htm> and http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html#Works-Cited.

³ If you need some concrete suggestions for how to improve your writing style I recommend looking at William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White's classic book The Elements of Style. 4th Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

⁴ Introduction to Philosophy Syllabus. David Yount, Ph.D., Mesa Community College. <<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/~yount/text/101sylbs.html>>

E) Final Exam (75 Points)

A Comprehensive Final Exam will be given on **May 18th in-class**. It will have 2 parts: 1) An objective section much like the tests and it will cover material from all readings, lectures, discussions, and films and 2) An essay section. Essay topics may be given out ahead of time. I also, usually give students the opportunity to take Part I of the Final Exam as an "oral" exam. **No Make-up exams will be given. The final exam is a course requirement.** (Translation: you must take the Final Exam to pass the course.) **Mark your calendars now with this date.**

V) Assignments for Instructor ~ Susan Priest:

- I will come to class on time.
- I will give this class 100% of my attention while we are meeting.
- I will prepare and deliver class lectures, bringing in relevant additional sources.
- I will facilitate class discussions and seek to create a respectful forum.
- **I will grade writing assignments and tests promptly.** *Exception: I may not turn late papers back promptly.*
- I will make myself available for your class related questions and concerns during office hours or by appointment, as needed.
- I will assign final grades to each student using the following criteria:

VI) GRADES:

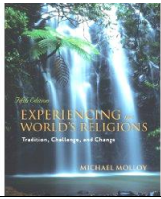
The final grade will be determined by the course requirements:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ➤ Class attendance & participation | 50 points |
| ➤ Tests (2 out of 3) | 150 points |
| ➤ Activities & Writing Assignments | 200 points |
| ➤ Term Project | 75 points |
| ➤ Final Exam | <u>75 points</u> |
| | 550 points |

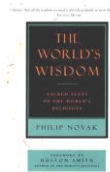
Points Earned	Grade Received
512 - 550 points	A
495 - 511 points	A-
479 - 494 points	B+
457 - 478 points	B
440 - 456 points	B-
424 - 439 points	C+
400 - 423 points	C
385 - 399 points	C-
369 - 384 points	D+
330 - 368 points	D
Below 330 points	F

NOTE: If you wish to withdraw from the course, rather than receive the grade that you have earned, it is your responsibility to withdraw. I do not assign a "W" for a final grade. If you run into problems, ask for help (445-3318). Friday May 14th is the last day to drop a full-term class with a "W."

VII) Reading:



Required TEXT (TX): *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge & Change, 5th Edition.* Michael Molloy. Boston: McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2010. (NOTE: You may choose to buy an earlier edition of this text, but the page numbers listed on this syllabus may be different.)



Recommended READER (RD): *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions.* Michael Novak. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1994. [NOTE: The recommended reading listed on pages 6-7 are **optional**. However, they will expand your knowledge of World Religions and they will be specifically useful for writing assignments.]

VIII) Calendar of Assignments:

All reading assignments (except for the first day of class) are to be completed before class.

WK	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
1	1/25/10	SYLLABUS – Introduction to World Religion and the Study of Religion	SYLLABUS The Study of Religion	
	1/27/10	Why Study of Religion – Understanding Religion	Pre-Test for World Religion (in-class exercise) Worth 15 points Begin TX: Chapter 1 (p.2-33)	
2	2/1/10	The Study of Religion – Hinduism	TX: Chapter 1 (p.2-33) & Chapter 3 “Hinduism” (p.74-123)	
	2/3/10	Hinduism	RD: Selections from <i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> (p. 24-40)	<input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Writing Assignment is DUE in “Turnitin” Due end of Week 2 - 2/5/10 25 Points
3	2/8/10	Hinduism – Buddhism	TX: Chapter 4 “Buddhism” (p.124-187)	
	2/10/10	Buddhism	RD: Selections from the life of Buddha and from the <i>Dhammapada</i> (p.49-65; 103-109)	
4	2/15/10	President’s Day – NO CLASS		SCHOOL CLOSED
	2/17/10	Buddhism Wrap-Up and Review for Test #1		**Last Week for Late Intro Writing
5	2/22/10	Test #1 – Chapters 1, and 3-4		Test #1 75 Points
	2/24/10	Jainism & Sikhism	TX: Chapter 5 “Jainism & Sikhism” (p.188-211)	
6	3/1/10	Jainism & Sikhism	TX: Chapter 5 “Jainism & Sikhism” (p. 188-211)	
	3/3/10	Chinese Religions	TX: Chapter 6 “Daoism and	Writing Assignment #1

			Confucianism” (p. 212-258) RD: Selections from <i>The Great Learning</i> and from <i>The Tao Te Ching</i> (p.133-161)	DUE end of Week 6 – 3/5/10 50 points
7	3/8/10	Daoism (Taoism) & Confucianism Continued		
	3/10/10	Chinese Religions Wrap-up & Indigenous Religions	TX: Chapter 2 “Indigenous Religions” (p.34-73)	
8	3/15/10	Indigenous Religions - Shinto		
	3/17/10	Shinto	TX: Chapter 7 “Shinto” (p. 262-287)	<i>**Last Week for #1-Late</i>
	3/22/10 - 3/28/10	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES		
9	3/29/10	Catch-up & Review for Test #2 (Chapters 2, 5-7)		
	3/31/10	Test #2 – Chapters 2, and 5-7		Test #2 75 points
10	4/5/10	Judaism	TX: Chapter 8 “Judaism” (p. 288-341)	
	4/7/10	Judaism	RD: Chapter 5 (p.175-224)	Writing Assignment #2 DUE by end of Week 10 – 4/7/10 50 points
11	4/12/10	Christianity	TX: Chapter 9 “Christianity” (p. 342-421)	
	4/14/10	Christianity	RD: Selections from creeds & other Christian writings outside the canonical Bible (p.262-279)	
12	4/19/10	Islam	TX: Chapter 10 “Islam” (p. 422-487)	
	4/21/10	Islam	RD: Selections from the Qur’an (p.282-310)	<i>**Last Week for #2-Late</i>
13	4/26/10	Alternative Paths	TX: Chapter 11 “Alternative Paths” (p. 488-525)	
	4/28/10	Alternative Paths		
14	5/3/10	Catch-up and Review Western Traditions		
	5/5/10	Test #3 – Chapters 8-11		Test #3 75 points
15	5/10/10	Wrap Up, Review & Presentations	Post-Test for World Religion (in-class exercise) Worth 15 points	
	5/12/10	Review & Presentations		Term Projects Due Week 15. 75 points <i>Friday May 14th, 2010 is the last day to withdraw from class with a “W.”</i>
16	5/17/10	Optional Day - TBA		
	5/19/10	FINAL EXAM 9:30 AM	FINAL EXAM is a course requirement.	Final Exam 75 points

IX Final Notes:

- A) **CAVEAT FROM INSTRUCTOR ON COURSE CONTENT:** As the course progresses there may be a need to modify topics, offer additional readings and handouts, assign additional assignments, and/or change the calendar of assignments to meet course objectives.
- B) **DISABILITY STATEMENT:** WNC supports providing equal access for students with disabilities. Susan Trist (DSS coordinator) is available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that students may require. Please contact Susan (445-3275) at your earliest convenience. The Disability Support Services Office is in the Bristlecone Building, Room 103.
- C) **REVIEW OF CLASSROOM POLICIES:**
- **RESPECT:** This says it all about my expectations of classroom behavior. See WNC's "Principles of Community" (p.3, 2009-2010 Catalog) for more details. Also, make sure to read WNC's "Student Code of Conduct" to know your rights and responsibilities
 - **ATTENDANCE:** Please contact instructor with questions or concerns related to attendance. If you miss more than 3 classes it will begin to lower your grade. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed when you are absent.
 - **LATE WORK:** I accept late writing assignments, but you will lose 5 points per week. In addition, you will not be able to submit a paper more than 2 weeks late (Exception: Final Project Must be received at the latest by May 19th.) **There are no re-writes.** Late Final Essay - Part II of Exams may not be accepted.
 - **MAKE-UP TESTS:** There are no make-up Tests or Final Exam. I drop the lowest test grade out of the first 3 tests. Please contact the instructor with questions or concerns related to this policy.
 - **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Honesty is the best policy. Learn to avoid plagiarism in writing assignments (see page 3 of syllabus). Cheating on quizzes/tests will be considered an automatic F for that test.
 - **CELL PHONES & Other Electronic Devices:** Must be OFF and put away during class. NO TEXTING! Class is only 75 minutes...your people can wait.
 - **YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK FOR HELP:** Don't forget that IF you have any questions on any aspect of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may always send me an email spriest@wnc.edu OR call me at 445-3318.