PHIL 210: World Religions SPRING 2015
ONLINE VERSION

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 2014-2015 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, and writing.
➢ have problem solving, creative, and critical thinking skills.
➢ understand the importance of cultural traditions, diversity, and ethics in the modern world.

Susan Priest, Community College Professor (College Success & Philosophy)
Office: Cedar 311
Phone: 775-445-3318
Email: Susan.Priest@wnc.edu
Remember to ASK FOR HELP :o)

Office Hours for SPRING 2015: Come visit me in my office at any of the following times OR request an alternate appointment: Monday 1:30-3:30pm; Wednesday 2:00-3:30 pm; Thursday 11-12:30 pm. Tuesdays and Fridays, you can find me in Bristlecone 159, the Faculty Senate Chair Office.

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 major religious traditions.

II) **Course Objectives:** The successful student will

A) increase their knowledge and appreciation of the world’s religions by differentiating how they name The Sacred;
B) identify and distinguish the basic moral tenants, doctrines and religious practices of the world’s major religious traditions;
C) identify and distinguish myth, ritual, symbol, architecture and artistic expression among the world’s major religious traditions.
D) demonstrate creative and critical thinking skills in written communication.

III) **Methods of Instruction and Learning:**

This is a online class which involves a combination of activities including: lecture, class discussion / discussion posts, online learning assessments, writing essays, viewing films and analyzing rituals.

• In this online version of PHIL 210, you need internet access, the ability to upload files, and participate in discussions, quizzes and exams in an online learning management system (CANVAS for WNC).
• For first time login instructions: https://wnc.instructure.com/courses/1074625

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

A) **Participation (50 Points)**

At the end of the semester, you will earn a score (up to 50 points) to recognize your participation in the class. **There are one to three pre-recorded lectures for each of the Learning Modules.** (NOTE: Each Video is between 20-60 minutes long.) At the end of the semester, you will earn a score (up to 50 points) to recognize your participation in the class. Participation is determined by your comments and timely responses/questions in the online lectures for each learning module. You must make comments/ask questions the week(s) that particular learning module is covered. Each lecture is linked within the learning module. This is an image of the Mediasite “pre-recorded” Lecture:

![Mediasite Lecture](image)

The bubble icon in the lower right hand corner of the screen is a place to ask questions or make comments on the lecture. You need to include your email after you click this icon to have your questions/comments received by your instructor. Failure to participate in class lectures in a timely fashion will constitute an “absence.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS EARNED – END of SEMESTER</th>
<th>IF the Following Conditions are Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 Points</td>
<td>Student has less than 2 “absences”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Points</td>
<td>Student has less than 4 “absences”</td>
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<td>30 Points</td>
<td>Student has less than 6 “absences”</td>
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<td>20 Points</td>
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<td>Student has less than 10 “absences”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 Points</td>
<td>Student has more than 11 “absences”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a study of world religions, participating also includes being open to new ideas. Respectful Communication Includes:

• Follow the Principles of Community (See WNC Policy iii:...)
http://www.wnc.edu/policymanual/0-3.php

- Use integrity, do not plagiarize. (See WNC Policy on Academic Integrity: http://www.wnc.edu/policymanual/3-4-5.php

- Write comments and responses to other students in complete sentences. Avoid using text messaging symbols, emoticons or other short cuts in online communication. An overabundance of these errors may result in a “O.”

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) Learning Assignments & Activities (550 Points)

This entire course is divided into Learning Modules –

- Unit 1 - What is Religion?
- Unit 2 - Hinduism
- Unit 3 - Buddhism
- Unit 4 - Taoism ~ Confucianism
- Unit 5 - Eastern Religions Wrap-Up
- Unit 6 - Judaism
- Unit 7 - Christianity
- Unit 8 - Islam
- Unit 9 - Western Religions Wrap-Up
- Unit 10 – New Religious Movements
- Unit 11 - What is Religion?

Late Work is not accepted.

Types of learning activities:

- Extra-Videos – Additional videos are uploaded within the learning modules to expand your understanding of the religions of the world.
- Online Learning Assessments (Quizzes) that test your knowledge of religious concepts and terminology (Units 1-4, 6-8, 10 and 11.)
- Discussion Posts that allow students to discuss religious concepts and create a respectful community of learning. These discussion posts will assume that you have attended class lectures or viewed them carefully. (Six Discussion Posts.)
- Text Analyses/Essays – Short writing assignments where students analyze a primary source from one of the world’s religions (Units 2-4, and 6-8.) I will count the 4 highest scores on these short writing assignments.
- Exams – 2 Online Exams that include some multiple-choice, true-false, short-answer
questions and one essay. The essay will allow students to compare and contrast the various religions being studied. You will have one opportunity to take each exam, and there is a 2-hour time limit. (Units 5 and 9.)

- Final Project (Unit 11). Choose one of the following projects. (I recommend starting on this project no later than Week 9.)

  A. 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.

  B. 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.

  C. Write a research paper on a religion that has not been covered during the summer session (8-10 pages) I suggest you take what you have learned, read one of the Molloy chapters we aren’t covering (5, 7, 11, etc) as a starting point and then see what else you can find out about that religion. Focus on key elements and their expression of the sacred. (e.g., What is sacred in Scientology?)

ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WE BE EVALUATED USING THE FOLLOWING:
CARS-L RUBRIC

NOTE: the point scale is different for each assignment.

| CLARITY | Writing should be clear¹. Remember to use proper punctuation, spelling and grammar. (Don’t just rely on the computer spell checker, proof read your assignment before you turn it in.) |
| ACCURACY (*You must use MLA citation format for all your short-essay assignments and for your term project.) | Writing should be accurate. This includes both proper citation format (MLA)*, avoiding plagiarism, and accurately representing the religious tradition. 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.) |
| RELEVANCY | Writing should be relevant. Have you addressed the assigned topics or wandered off topic? Have you focused on important philosophical, theological, literary, artistic or historical aspect of the religion in question or focused on trivial topics? |
| SUFFICIENCY | Writing should be sufficient. Your writing will be deemed insufficient if you have written less than the writing prompt |

¹ 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,
**LOGIC**

Writing should be logical and flow in composition and content. Is your brief essay a collection of random thoughts or a coherent series of interrelated thoughts? *(You are striving for the second.)*

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**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.”

*Plagiarizing = F (0). ANY Paper, discussion post or essay that has been plagiarized will receive an automatic 0. Repeated instances of plagiarism may result in an automatic failure of PHIL 210 for the semester. Further disciplinary actions may follow as listed in the WNC Policy on Academic Integrity. (SEE WNC POLICY 3-4-5: [http://www.wnc.edu/policymanual/3-4-5.php](http://www.wnc.edu/policymanual/3-4-5.php))*

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**V) Assignments for Professor Susan Priest:**

- I will respond to student questions within 48 hours.
- I will grade writing assignments and tests promptly.
- I will prepare and deliver class lectures, online activities, and update the class with relevant sources.
- I will monitor class discussions and seek to create a respectful forum at all times.
- I will make myself available for your class related questions and concerns 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:

- **Participation (On time participation in lectures)**: 50 points
- **Discussion Posts**: 150 points
- **Quizzes (Including Syllabus Quiz)**: 75 points
- **Short Essays (Only 4 out of 6)**: 100 points
- **Exams**: 150 points
- **Term Project**: 75 points

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2 *Introduction to Philosophy Syllabus. David Yount, Ph.D., Mesa Community College.*

<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/~yount/text/101sylbs.html>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Grade Received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>558 - 600 points</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>540 – 557 points</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>522 - 539 points</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>498 – 521 points</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>480 - 497 points</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>462 – 479 points</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>438 – 461 points</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>420 – 437 points</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>402 – 419 points</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360 – 401 points</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 360 points</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** If you wish to withdraw from the course, rather than receive the grade that you have earned, it is your responsibility to withdraw. No professor is allowed to give a “W” as a final grade. If you run into problems, ask for help (445-3318). **March 27, 2015 is the last day to drop a full-term class with a “W.”**

**VII) Reading:**


VIII) Final Notes & Policies

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. *Any modification or possibility of extra-credit will be announced to all students, both in-class and on CANVAS.

B) DISABILITY STATEMENT: WNCC 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 Trist (775-445-3275) at your earliest convenience. http://www.wnc.edu/studentservices/dss/

C) STUDENT SERVICES Available: Counseling Services (Including Online Counseling) - http://www.wnc.edu/studentservices/counseling/ , and Tutoring Services (including online tutoring) http://www.wnc.edu/studentservices/asc/. (There will be more information about online tutoring Week 1.

D) REVIEW OF POLICIES:
   LATE WORK POLICIES:
   ❑ I do not accept late work. If you run into an emergency situation please contact the instructor (Susan.Priest@wnc.edu 775-445-3318) as soon as possible. *There may be a “grace” period in extreme situations but a student must communicate with the instructor before that is determined.
   ❑ The Deadlines for discussion posts, essays, online quizzes, and the term projects are listed on pages 8-10 of syllabus and on CANVAS.
   ❑ The Deadlines for online quizzes are final. No Late quizzes or exams will earn points.

   MAKE-UP EXAMS: There are no make-up quizzes or exams. Please consult WNC Online and the Due Dates Sheet for the deadlines for all quizzes and exams.

   ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Honesty is the best policy. Learn to avoid plagiarism in writing assignments and exams (see page 5 of syllabus). Plagiarizing on a writing assignment or essay on an exam will be considered an automatic F (=0) for that test or writing assignment. Repeated instances of cheating on tests/or in writing assignments may result in failure of class. ALL RULES of WNC POLICY on ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (3-4-5) APPLY IN THIS CLASS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK of Semester (Date Covered)</th>
<th>TOPIC COVERED</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Activities in CANVAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (1/20-1/24/2015)</td>
<td>Introductions and What is Religion</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>CANVAS Orientation (includes Syllabus quiz &amp; Intro Post.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (1/25-1/31/2015)</td>
<td>Module 1 Wrap Up – Begin Hinduism</td>
<td>Chapter 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>MODULE 1 Assignments DUE by Tuesday of Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (2/1-2/7/2015)</td>
<td>HINDUISM</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Module 2 – Hinduism – Due by Sunday of Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (2/8-2/14/2015)</td>
<td>BUDDHISM</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Module 3 - Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (2/15-2/21/2015)</td>
<td>BUDDHISM</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Module 3 – Buddhism Due by Sunday of Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 (2/22-2/28/2015)</td>
<td>TAOISM &amp; CONFUCIANISM</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Module 4 – Taoism &amp; Confucianism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 (3/1-3/7/15)</td>
<td>TAOISM &amp; CONFUCIANISM</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Module 4 – Taoism &amp; Confucianism DUE Sunday of Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 (3/8-3/14/15)</td>
<td>EASTERN RELIGIONS Wrap UP</td>
<td>EXAM 1 (Online) – Done by Saturday of Week 8.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 (3/22-3/28/15)</td>
<td>JUDAISM</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Module 6 - Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 (3/29-4/4/15)</td>
<td>JUDAISM/CHRISTIANITY</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Module 6 – Judaism Due by Friday of Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 (4/5-4/11/15)</td>
<td>CHRISTIANITY</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Module 7 - Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 (4/12-4/18/15)</td>
<td>CHRISTIANITY/ISLAM</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Module 7 Due by Friday of Week 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 (4/19-4/25/15)</td>
<td>ISLAM</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Module 8 – Islam Due by Sunday of Week 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 (4/26-5/2/15)</td>
<td>Western Religions Wrap Up</td>
<td>EXAM 2 online by Saturday of Week 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (5/3-5/9/15)</td>
<td>Western Religions Wrap-Up &amp; New Religious Movements</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Module 10 Assignments due by Friday of WEEK 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 (5/10-5/16/15)</td>
<td>Wrap-Up World Religions</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Module 11 Discussion Due by Tuesday of Week 16 and FINAL PROJECTS DUE by Thursday of WEEK 16.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to PHIL 210 *(Complete as soon as possible...).*

- CANVAS ORIENTATION
- Syllabus Quiz *(worth 5 points)*
- Introductory Discussion Post *(worth 5 points)*

**Unit 1 - What is Religion? (All work for this unit is DUE by January 27, 2015)**

- Read Chapters 1 & 9 - Huston Smith
- View Lectures and other material in WNC Online (CANVAS) - Participate
- Quiz 1 *(worth 10 points)* - Quiz is self-graded, you can take this 3 times, your highest score will be counted.

**Unit 2 - Hinduism (All work for this unit is DUE by February 8, 2015)**

- Read Chapter 2 “Hinduism” – Huston Smith
- View Lectures and other material in WNC Online (CANVAS) - Participate
- Read Novak Selections on Hinduism and Write Essay Response *(worth 25 points)*
- Quiz 2 *(worth 10 points)* - Quiz is self-graded, you can take this 3 times, your highest score will be counted.

**Unit 3 - Buddhism (All work for this unit is DUE by February 22, 2015)**

- Read Chapter 3 “Buddhism” – Huston Smith
- View Lectures and other material in WNC Online (CANVAS) - Participate
- Read Novak Selections on Buddhism and Write Essay Response *(worth 25 points)*
- Quiz 3 *(worth 10 points)* - Quiz is self-graded, you can take this 3 times, your highest score will be counted.

**Unit 4 – Taoism & Confucianism (All work for this unit is DUE by March 8, 2015)**

- Read Chapters 4 & 5 -- Huston Smith
- View Lectures and other material in WNC Online (CANVAS) - Participate
- Read Novak Selections on Taoism & Confucianism and Write Essay Response *(worth 25 points)*
- Quiz 4 *(worth 10 points)* - Quiz is self-graded, you can take this 3 times, your highest score will be counted.

**Unit 5 – Eastern Religions (All work for this unit is DUE by March 14, 2015)**

- Attend/View Review Class (This will either be pre-recorded or an online “chat”)
- Exam 1 *(worth 75 points)* - This will be a “timed” exam online. You will have ONE opportunity to take this exam and it will include multiple-choice, true-false, short-answer questions and at least 1 essay question. (NOTE: Essay questions may be posted ahead of time.)
IF for any reason you don’t want to receive the grade you have earned this semester, you are responsible to withdraw yourself. The last day to withdraw from any full-term course at WNC is Friday March 27, 2015.

Unit 6 - Judaism (All work for this unit is DUE by April 3, 2015)
- Read Chapter 7 “Judaism” -- Huston Smith
- View Lectures and other material in WNC Online (CANVAS) - Participate
- Read Novak Selections on Judaism and Write Essay Response (worth 25 points)
- Religion Discussion Post #4 (worth 25 points)
- Quiz 5 (worth 10 points)* Quiz is self-graded, you can take this 3 times, your highest score will be counted.

Unit 7 - Christianity (All work for this unit is DUE by April 17, 2015)
- Read Chapter 8 “Christianity” -- Huston Smith
- View Lectures and other material in WNC Online (CANVAS) - Participate
- Read Novak Selections on Christianity and Write Essay Response (worth 25 points)
- Quiz 6 (worth 10 points)* Quiz is self-graded, you can take this 3 times, your highest score will be counted.

Unit 8 - Islam (All work for this unit is DUE by April 26, 2015)
- Read Chapter 6 “Islam” -- Huston Smith
- View Lectures and other material in WNC Online (CANVAS)-Participate
- Read Novak Selections on Islam and Write Essay Response (worth 25 points)
- Religion Discussion Post #5 (worth 25 points)
- Quiz 7 (worth 10 points)* Quiz is self-graded, you can take this 3 times, your highest score will be counted.

Unit 9 – Western Religions (All work for this unit is DUE by May 2, 2015)
- Attend/View Review Class (May be online chat and it may be a pre-recorded review class)
- Exam 2 (worth 75 points)*This will be a “timed” exam online. You will have ONE opportunity to take this exam and it will include multiple-choice, true-false, short-answer questions and at least 1 essay question. (NOTE: Essay questions may be posted ahead of time.)

Unit 10 – New Religious Movements (All work is DUE by May 8, 2015)
- Reading TBA
- View Lectures and other material in WNC Online (CANVAS)- Participate
- Quiz 8 (worth 10 points)* Quiz is self-graded, you can take this 3 times, your highest score will be counted.

Unit 11 – What is Religion See Due Dates in CANVAS
- Reading Chapter 11 -- Huston Smith
- Final Discussion Post #6 – Wrap Up (worth 25 points)
- Term Project (worth 75 points) – You may start on this term project as soon as you feel ready in the summer semester. Don’t leave this to the last minute, even though it isn’t due until December. See the description of this project on page 3 of the syllabus.