

PHIL 200: Judeo-Christian Traditions Spring 2014
WNC, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:45 AM (Cedar 313) Enhanced Class

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: None

Transferability: Transfer to institutions within UCCSN as **PHIL 200**. (May substitute for Core Humanities 201 if student follows transfer agreement to UNR)

Fulfills: Humanities requirement for Transfer & General Education Degrees. **This course links to the following “General Education Student Learning Outcomes”** in the 2013-2014 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.

Susan Priest, Community College Professor (College Success & Philosophy)

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Remember to ASK FOR HELP :o)

Office Hours for SPRING 2014: Come visit me in my office at any of the following times OR request an alternate appointment: Monday 4-5 pm; Tuesday 1-2:30 pm; Wednesday 4-5 pm; Thursday 1-2:30 pm.

Take advantage of your instructor's Office Hours ☺ !

I) Course Description:

Studies the major religious philosophic beliefs found in the Old and New Testaments along with the way these concepts were modified in post-biblical cosmology.

II) Course Objectives:

- A) To identify the major historical events and cultures that shaped the formation of Hebrew and Christian Scriptures;
- B) To examine the moral, theological and philosophical themes of Judaism, Christianity and Islam;
- C) To develop **critical thinking** skills, in oral and written communication; and
- D) To research and critically evaluate one significant topic in Judeo-Christian history or scriptures.

III) Methods of Instruction and Learning:

Class may involve a combination of activities including: lecture, class discussion, peer-evaluations, writing assignments, quizzes, exams and video-analysis.

In this enhanced class, PHIL 200 you will need internet access, the ability to upload papers, and the skills to participate in discussions, and quizzes in an online learning management system (CANVAS for WNC).

For first time login instructions, go to the following link:

<https://wnc.instructure.com/courses/1074625>

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 Judeo-Christian Traditions, being prepared also includes being open to new ideas.

A Word on Lectures and Class Discussions in PHIL 200: This class will be exploring the historical roots and formation of The Bible. Some lectures and discussions may challenge deeply held beliefs. Our goal will be to create a civil forum for discussing these topics and engage our critical thinking skills.

Attendance & Participation: Your attendance and participation in class matters. At the end of the semester, you will earn a score (up to 50 points) to recognize your attendance/participation in class:

POINTS EARNED – END of SEMESTER	IF the Following Conditions are Met
50 Points	Student has less than 4 “absences”
40 Points	Student has less than 6 “absences”
30 Points	Student has less than 8 “absences”
20 Points	Student has less than 10 “absences”
10 Points	Student has less than 12 “absences”
0 Points	Student has more than 12 “absences”

B) **Quizzes (125 Points)**

There will be 6 quizzes throughout the semester (worth 25 points each) on concepts, history, and religious terminology (*use PHIL 200 Study Guide - Terminology List handout*) and reading assignments (*refer to page 5-7 of this syllabus – IX Calendar of Assignments.*) These quizzes are worth 25 points each and may include short answer definitions, multiple choice questions and/or true-false questions. **No make-up quizzes will be given.** I will drop the lowest quiz grade. (NOTE: Some of the quizzes may be offered online, some quizzes will be during class time.)

C) **Discussion & Writing Assignments (200 Points)**

Discussion 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:

- ❑ **ONLINE INTRODUCTION and Discussion Post - CANVAS. (25 points) – Due By Sunday of Week 2**
- ❑ **Thesis for Writing 1 – (20 points) – ½ your score will be from Instructor, and ½ of your score will be from your peers. You must attend the “Thesis” party class to**

earn the peer review points.

- ❑ **Thesis for Writing 2 – (20 points)** – ½ your score will be from Instructor, and ½ of your score will be from your peers. You must attend the “Thesis” party class to earn the peer review points.
- ❑ **Final Oral Presentations/Discussions --** Taking one of the significant topics of the course, give a short presentation where you trace the history and development of an idea and articulate your own thesis in front of your peers. May use the topic of your term project. Part of your grade will be earned from peer review. **(35 points)**

Writing Assignments – Two short papers (4-6 pages) are designed to give each student an opportunity to reflect critically on religious texts and themes of this course. You will find suggested topics on CANVAS.

50 points (max) are given for each writing assignment. Late Papers will not be accepted.

- ❑ **Writing Assignment 1 – Due end of week 5**
- ❑ **Writing Assignment 2 – Due end of week 10**

ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

(including Papers, Projects, Discussions, In-Class Prompts, and Thesis Statements)

WILL BE EVALUATED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

CARS-L RUBRIC

NOTE: the point scale is different for each assignment.

CLARITY	<u>Writing should be clear</u> ¹ . Remember to use proper punctuation, spelling and grammar. (<i>Don't just rely on the computer spell checker, proof read your assignment before you turn it in.</i>)
ACCURACY (*You must use MLA citation format for all your short-essay assignments and for your term project.)	<u>Writing should be accurate.</u> This includes both proper citation format (MLA)*, avoiding plagiarism, and accurately representing the religious tradition. Have you accurately represented the religious tradition? (<i>While you may believe your comments are simply a matter of opinion, it is possible to misread and misrepresent a sacred text.</i>)
RELEVANCY	<u>Writing should be relevant.</u> 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	<u>Writing should be sufficient.</u> Your writing will be deemed insufficient if you have written less than the writing prompt requires. Have you explored the nuances of the sacred texts identified in the writing prompt?
LOGIC	<u>Writing should be logical</u> and flow in composition and content. Is your brief essay a collection of random thoughts or a coherent series of interrelated thoughts? (<i>You are striving for the second.</i>)

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, 2000.

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.”² **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>)**

D) Term Project (75 points)

Choose one of the following projects. All term projects are **due by Week 15 – May 9, 2014.**

1. Read a book on some of the new discoveries in Biblical Archeology and/ or hot topics in Judeo Christian Traditions (e.g., *The Battle For God: A History of Fundamentalism* by Karen Armstrong; *Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas* by Elaine Pagels). Write a book review (**6-8 pages**) exploring the significant themes and arguments of the book. Your book review must be framed with a clearly defined thesis.
2. Write a historical-critical analysis of some passage of Hebrew or Christian scripture or other ancient religious text. (**7-10 pages**). *There will be more helpful hints coming if you choose this option.*
3. Design your own project (**7-10 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.

E) EXAMS (175 Points)

Mid-Term Exam (In Class Week 8) **March 13, 2014**

The form and scope of this exam will be announced in class ahead of time. It will have a combination of multiple-choice, true-false, short-answer, and essay questions. **No Make-up exams will be given.**

Final Exam (In-Class Week 16)

A Comprehensive Final Exam will be given on **May 13th or 15th in-class**. It will have 2 parts: 1) An objective section much like the tests covering the significant history of Judeo-Christian traditions and 2) An essay section. Essay topics may be given out ahead of time. The form and content of the Final Exam may change. **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.*)

A complete list of DUE DATES and Learning Activities are

Posted in CANVAS at <https://wnc.instructure.com/login>

² Introduction to Philosophy Syllabus. David Yount, Ph.D., Mesa Community College.
<<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/~yount/text/101syllbs.html>>

V) **My Commitment to you:**

- I will respond to student questions within 48 hours.
- **I will grade writing assignments, quizzes and exams 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:

The final grade will be determined by the course requirements:

- **Class attendance & participation** 50 points
- **Quizzes (5 out of 6)** 125 points
- **Discussion Activities & Writing Assignments** 200 points
- **Term Project** 75 points
- **Exams** 150 points
- 600 points**

Points Earned	Grade Received
558 - 600 points	A
540 – 557 points	A-
522 - 539 points	B+
498 – 521 points	B
480 - 497 points	B-
462 – 479 points	C+
438 – 461 points	C
420 – 437 points	C-
402 – 419 points	D+
360 – 401 points	D
Below 360 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 March 28th is the last day to drop a full-term class with a “W.”

VII) **Required Reading:**

Armstrong, Karen. A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. New York: Ballantine Books, 1993. **(ARMSTRONG)**

The Bible (*I recommend the New Revised Standard Version or The New Jerusalem Bible because they are modern language editions that have incorporated the latest biblical archeological findings (like the Dead Sea Scrolls) into their translations. These translations also have consulted with many different Christian and Jewish scholars in the process of translation.*)

HANDOUTS – Given out in class., ahead of time. Please ask instructor if you have questions about these reading 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 (<i>To be done before class session listed below</i>)	Assignments Due
1	1/21/14	SYLLABUS. <i>Themes of Course: In the Beginning... The idea of God</i>	SYLLABUS	
	1/23/14	<i>Why use the Bible? How to Use the Bible Ancient Origins Ancient Mesopotamia</i>	The Bible: Table of Contents Armstrong: Introduction (<i>pages xvii-xxiii</i>) Handouts:	
2	1/28/14	Ancient Mesopotamian Origins – Hammurabi’s Code <i>Begin Creation Stories 3500-1800 B.C.E.</i>	Armstrong: Chapter 1 “In the Beginning” (<i>pages 3-39</i>) The Bible: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3	Online Introduction and Discussion Post Due by Sunday Night of Week 2 25 Points
	1/30/14	<i>More on... Creation Stories: Enuma Elish & Genesis</i>	Handouts:	QUIZ 1 - 25 Points
3	2/4/14	Covenant & Sacrifice Abraham <i>circa 1800 B.C.E.</i>	The Bible: Genesis 12:1-22:19	
	2/6/14			THESIS PARTY #1 – BRING THESIS 1 TO CLASS 20 Points
4	2/11/14	Moses to David Covenant expanded <i>Circa 1250-950 B.C.E.</i>	The Bible: Exodus 19:1-20:21; Deuteronomy 5; 2 Samuel 7:11-16 Handouts:	
	2/13/14	Egyptian Influences Review -	Handouts	QUIZ 2 25 Points
5	2/18/14	The History of the Divided Kingdom & Hebrew Prophets <i>922-587 B.C.E.</i>	Armstrong: Chapter 2 “One God” (<i>pages 40-78</i>)	
	2/20/14	Assyria & Babylonian Influences Persian Influences: Zoroastrianism and Eschatology <i>587 –539 B.C.E.</i>	Handouts	Writing Assignment #1 Due on 2/22/14 (See CANVAS for more details.) 50 points
6	2/25/14	Alexander the Great, Greek Influences and The Septuagint <i>330-64 B.C.E.</i>	Handouts	
	2/27/14	TBA		QUIZ 3 25 Points
7	3/4/14	Roman Rule – Factions within Judaism	Armstrong: Chapter 3 “A Light to the Gentiles” (<i>pages 79-106</i>)	

		63 B.C.E. – 70 C.E. Search for the Historical Jesus 4 B.C.E. – 29 C.E.	The Bible: Galatians and Mark 1-4 Handouts	
	3/6/14	The Jesus Movement, Paul, The Gospels and other Early Christian Literature 30 – 100 C.E.	Handouts	QUIZ 4 25 Points
8	3/11/14	REVIEW FOR MID_TERM		
	3/13/14	MID-TERM EXAM		EXAM (in-class covering first half of course material) 75 points
	3/16/14-3/22/14	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASSES	
9	3/25/14	Rabbinic Judaism 70 – 1008 C.E. Constantine & The shift in the Christian movement 30 – 325 C.E.	Handouts	
	3/27/14		<i>Friday March 28, 2014 is the last day to withdraw from class with a "W."</i>	THESIS PARTY #2 – BRING THESIS 2 TO CLASS 20 Points
10	4/1/14	Controversies & Councils & Trinity 100-500 C.E.	Armstrong: Chapter 4 "Trinity: The Christian God" (pages 107-131)	
	4/3/14	More on Controversies	Handouts	Writing Assignment #2 Due on 4/5/14 (See CANVAS for more details.) 50 points
11	4/8/14	Rise of Islam 600-800 C.E.	Armstrong: Chapter 5 "The God of Islam" (pages 132-169)	
	4/10/14			QUIZ 5 25 Points
12	4/15/14	Early Philosophical Perspectives 1000-1500 C.E.	Armstrong: Chapter 6 "The God of the Philosophers" (pages 170-209)	
	4/17/14	Early Philosophical Perspectives 1000-1500 C.E.	Handouts	
13	4/22/14	Mysticism & Reform Movements 1000-1600 C.E.	Armstrong: Chapter 7 "The God of the Mystics" (pages 209-257)	
	4/24/14	Mysticism & Reform	Armstrong: Chapter 8 "The God	

		Movements 1000-1600 C.E.	of Reformers” (<i>pages 257-293</i>)	
14	4/29/14			QUIZ 6 25 Points
	5/1/14	Missing Topics	TBA	
15	5/6/14	Presentations - Review		Presentation 35 points
	5/8/14	Presentations - Review		Term Projects Due Week 15. 75 points
16	5/13/14	TBA - Presentations – Review and/or Part 1 of Final Exam		
	5/15/14	FINAL EXAM	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. *Any modification or possibility of extra-credit will be announced to all students, both in-class and on CANVAS.

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 Trist (775-445-3275) at your earliest convenience.** <http://www.wnc.edu/student-services/dss/>

C) STUDENT SERVICES Available: Counseling Services (Including Online Counseling) - <http://www.wnc.edu/student-services/counseling/>, and Tutoring Services (including online tutoring) <http://www.wnc.edu/student-services/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 post, thesis “parties”, writing assignments, quizzes, exams and the term projects are listed on pages 6-8 of syllabus and on CANVAS.
- There are NO make-up quizzes or exams.

CELL PHONES: Should be OFF and put away during class. NO TEXTING! Class is only 75 minutes...your people can wait.

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.**