

5055 Santa Teresa Blvd Gilroy, CA 95020

Course Outline

Course: PHIL 6A Division: 10 Also Listed As:

Term Effective: 200970, INACTIVE COURSE

Short Title: COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

Full Title: Comparative Religions

Contact Hours/WeekUnitsNumber of WeeksTotal Contact HoursLecture: 3317.34Lecture: 52.02

Lab: 0
Other: 0
Total: 3

Lab: 0
Other: 0
Total: 52.02

Credit Status: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

Grading Modes: L - Standard Letter Grade

Repeatability: N - Course may not be repeated

Schedule Types: 02 - Lecture and/or discussion

# **Course Description:**

Religion is a topic that ignites controversy -- most societies engage in religious practices, believe strongly in that tradition, and find a sense of identity within it. The controversy arises when differences are misunderstood, misrepresented, or placed in a hierarchy of assumed supremacy of one religion as superior to others. In this class, students explore the underlying commonality of various religious traditions, explore the uniqueness of the religions with which they are unfamiliar, and learn to see that diversity among beliefs doesn't have to create hostility. Students will explore religions from Indigenous Peoples throughout the world, East Asia (e.g. India), China, the Middle East, as well as some more recent trends in religion.

ADVISORY: Eligible for English 1A.

# **ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION**

Associate Degree:

GAV C2, effective 200670 GAV F, effective 200670

CSU GE:

CSU C2, effective 200670

IGETC:

IGETC 3B, effective 200670

**CSU TRANSFER:** 

Transferable CSU, effective 200670

UC TRANSFER:

Transferable UC, effective 200670

### PREREQUISITES:

# **COREQUISITES:**

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Critical analysis of text with evidence of synthesis of information in order to move from simple reiteration of concepts to applications.

ILO: 2,1,7,6,4

Measure: essays, term project, exams, oral report

2. Demonstration of proficiency with distinguishing between primary and secondary sources, and commentary/critique of those texts ILO: 2.7.1

Measure: written exams, project

3. Employ techniques of basic argumentation as a means to support an interpretation of text and/or a unique personal theory designed for a specific topic

ILO: 2,1,6,7,4 Measure: essays

4. Develop a critical and mindful awareness of the distinction between the profoundly different approaches to philosophical inquiry and religious text, particularly the non-linear approaches of many Asian and African cultures, along with paying attention to the supposition of gender/ethnic/class distinctions in theorizing. ILO: 2.6.4.1

Measure: essays, role playing/projects, demonstration, exams

5. Development of qualitative methods of analysis

ILO: 2.7

Measure: exams, projects

6. Apply philosophical concepts to other disciplines, such as social

science, psychology, literature

ILO: 2,6,1

Measure: exams, projects

TOPICS AND SCOPE: Inactive Course: 12/08/2008 WEEK 1 3 HOURS

overview of the definition and meaning of philosophy and religion the introduction of social agency, hegemony, perspective (the lens of subjectivity), expectations for the course, and general introductory material and begin to dismantle underlying assumptions about religion that may block students' ability to embrace difference. Assigned: life line

project (typically takes 2 or more hours if done in a thoughtful and creative manner), read introduction to the text, become acquainted with the handouts, write out any questions that need to be addressed for the next class period.

WEEK 2 1 HOUR

sharing of the life line project, demonstrate the connectedness of learners with each other, instructor, and the topics in the course. Work on the various approaches to defining religion, religious movements. Discuss themes such as orthodoxy and orthopraxy, fundamentalism, and cult versus occult. RW Intro., and WW Intro. write a 1 paragraph synopsis of the major concepts, bring in at least 1 question or area of concern. WEEK 2-4 7 HOURS

Indigenous Sacred Ways: Investigate and discuss religious traditions of primarily tribal people throughout the world -- North and South America, Oceania, Africa, New Guinea, etc. Students will be asked to read translations of cosmological and cosmogony tales and attempt to interpret worldview, sense of self/community, etc. of the people and question while being mindful of how the translated tales came about. Readings: RW 13-69; WW 299-348: write one page synopsis of the readings or of any emerging theme that appears important.

WEEK 4 1 HOUR

Examination #1: Introductory Ideas and tribal traditions

WEEK 5-6 6 HOURS

Hinduism: Investigate the development of the boundless approaches to religion in India. Begin with overview of the idea of the term "Hindu" as political and not religious; discuss the precursors to the early Hindu practices: Aryan and Harrapa, move through the Vedic tradition, Yogic practices, Intellectualism, Goddess worship, etc. The goal is to see Hinduism as a non-specific term when it comes to religious practice. Read: RW 70-114, WW 15-69, handouts, Write analysis paper: "Religious Ideology, Hindu Women, and Development"

WEEK 7 3 HOURS

Jainism: Discuss the major themes of Jainism as it developed as a reaction to Hinduism. Look into its development and application into the modern era as advocates for peace and religious tolerance. Read: RW 115-124, handouts Write synopsis of major ideas.

WEEK 8-9 6 HOURS

Buddhism: Discuss the development and major ideas at work in Buddhism. Students will read sacred texts and explore the fundamental theology as it applies to Buddhists and non-Buddhists. Compare Buddhism to Jainism. Read: RW 126-154, WW 61-100, Analysis paper #2 "Buddhist Women's Movement"

WEEK 10 3 HOURS

Shinto: Discuss the development and impact of Shinto on Japanese culture. Investigate the major themes within the tradition and compare them to those religions emanating from China. Read: Read RW 202-219, WW 117-134 WEEK 11 1 HOUR

Examination #2: Religions developing out of India and China

WEEK 11 1 HOUR

Monotheism: introduction to the development of the idea of one god, its impact on culture through the world. Thought paper on the idea of god will be assigned.

WEEK 11 1 HOUR

Zoroastrianism: Discussion of one of the oldest monotheistic tradition and begin to see the commonality of ideas of eschatology, messiah, humanity,

that are shared among the dominant monotheistic traditions Read RW 219-239, handouts.

**WEEK 12-13 6 HOURS** 

Judaism: Discuss the foundation of the modern monotheistic traditions from the origins of Judaism, discussion of sacred text and foundation of the idea of a contract between the deity and humanity, investigate the attributes of theology that are consistent with the other major monotheistic traditions and look into the beginnings of the multiple notions of a messiah. Read: RW 240-277, WW 157-201

**WEEK 14-15 6 HOURS** 

Christianity: Discuss the major themes of Christianity from a primarily text and historical perspective. Take care in drawing attention to its development and the traditions that lended particular influence to the theology. Read: RW 278-329, WW 201-238, Write Analysis Paper on "Muierista"

WEEK 16 3 HOURS

Islam: Investigation of the youngest and fasted developing monotheistic tradition. Pay close attention to the similarities and differences of the other 2 monotheistic traditions and attempt to stereotype and myth bust the idea of Islamic terrorism as a fundamental attribute of Islam

WEEK 17 1 HOUR

Discussion of fundamentalism in religion and its influence on society and culture. Focus will be on demonstrating that fundamentalism is a reaction to something, typically modernity, and is not the exclusive domain of Islam or Christianity.

WEEK 17 2 HOURS

Women and Goddess Centered Religions: A look at some alternative approaches to faith and belief. WW 349-389

WEEK 18 2 HOURS

Cults and the emergence of new religious practice: Scientology, cloning, space travel, etc. The goal is to demonstrate how even the so-called 'fringe' is still influenced and emulates traditional religions in some manner.

Assignments are included with the content.

# METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

1) lecture with Socratic dialog 2) small group projects 3) recent media to create a sense of relevance outside of the text 4) short writing assignments 5) creative project emphasizing understanding and personal interpretation of one area of philosophical interest to the student 6) outside speakers and visits to places of worship in the area.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

The types of writing assignments required:

Written homework

Essay exams

Term papers

Other: group presentations

The problem-solving assignments required:

**Exams** 

Other: group projects

The types of skill demonstrations required:

Class performance

The types of objective examinations used in the course:

Multiple choice True/false Other: short answer Other category:

None

The basis for assigning students grades in the course:

Writing assignments: 60% - 75% Problem-solving demonstrations: 15% - 25% 15% - 25% Skill demonstrations: Objective examinations: 5% - 10% Other methods of evaluation: 0% - 0%

# REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Fisher, Living Religions, Pearson/Prentice-Hall, 6th ed. 2005, or other appropriate college level text. Reading level of text: 12 grade.

Verified by: Microsoft Word

Other Materials Required to be Purchased by the Student: Armstrong,

History of God, Ballantine Books, 1993

# SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N Classification: A Noncredit Category: Y Cooperative Education:

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

CAN:

CAN Sequence:

CSU Crosswalk Course Department: PHIL CSU Crosswalk Course Number: 6A

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: E Maximum Hours: Minimum Hours:

Course Control Number: CCC000070715 Sports/Physical Education Course: N

Taxonomy of Program: 150900