

CLARENDON COLLEGE
PHIL 1316 LEC195 COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2011

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Lance Wood

OFFICE LOCATION: First Baptist Church, 300 S. Bubgee, Clarendon, TX. 79226, 874-3833 (W); 664-0683 (M). Email: lance.wood@clarendoncollege.edu
The instructor will be available for personal conferences dealing with class and other matters as needed.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9:00-12:00 P.M. in the offices of F.B.C.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS: This course is an introduction to the academic study of major world religions and primal religions. This study will cover the historical evolution, the fundamental doctrines and beliefs, practices, institutions, vocabulary, and cultural expressions of the stated religious traditions. The course will also clarify the differences, similarities and uniqueness of the respected religious traditions. The students will gain the ability to:

1. Think empathetically and critically of each studied religious tradition
2. Gain knowledge of the history and culture of each studied religion
3. Be a more effective person in their workplace by understanding other worldviews established by their respected traditions and religion
4. Grow in wisdom and knowledge about past and current world events
5. Understanding how religions affect our future

COURSE NECESSITY: First, there can be no excuse for ignorance about the world's major religious traditions and worldviews due to the worldwide physical and electronic mobility phenomenon. In the past the world was segregated in its business practices and relationships, today however, that is no longer the case. Religious pluralism is obvious in America. "Foreign religions" are no longer "over there" but are right here. Therefore, it is imperative to be familiar with our global and next-door neighbors.

Second, and perhaps the most compelling reason, is that the study of religions is a search for the Sacred and Holy; a search for purpose and meaning in life and the eternal. World history has proven it to be important to humankind. The major world religions demonstrate the most influential patterns in humanity's quest for purpose and meaning. Accepted ignorance is to scoff at humankind's genuine search for the Holy and its values and beliefs.

Only a few years ago the trend of philosophers and intellectuals was that religion was outdated and humanity had evolved past the need for it. Nietzsche declared, "God is dead." Others followed his lead thinking that society had progressed towards modernity and that the "primitive superstitions" of religious belief would soon cease. Yet, today it is clear that Nietzsche and his followers were wrong. Religion hasn't disappeared; it has, in fact, come to the forefront of world discussion and issues. The news is full of religion or the day's events that were caused because of it. It is apparent that we will continue to live in a world that is driven by its different religions.

REQUIRED TEXT BOOK:

Hopfe, Lewis M., and Mark R. Woodward. Religions of the World. 11th Edition. N.J.: Pearson, 2009.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- You will write an *Entry Paper*, worth **5%** of your grade, and an *Exit Paper*, worth **10%** of your grade. The *Entry Essay* will consist of:
 - A statement of your religious beliefs
 - Your definition of religion
 - Short paragraph answers to the following questions:
 - What is your philosophy of life?
 - How can one find meaning and purpose in life?
 - Is there any ultimate reality, a god? Describe it.
 - Is there a life after this one?

The *Exit Essay* will consist of and answer the following questions:

- A reevaluation of your religious beliefs
 - Your definition of religion. Has it changed? Why?
 - With which views did you agree and why?
 - With which views did you disagree and why?
 - Have you found truth in more than one religious tradition?
 - How have your views or your understanding of religion changed?
- *Source Documents* Quizzes will be worth **10%** of your grade. *Source Documents* are short excerpts from historic religious writings. For **Part I** you will log onto WebCT, select this class, select the Part I icon, download and read the source documents and then take the quiz that corresponds with the source document. These are short 4-5 question quizzes to prepare the student for the lectures and the discussion board topics. You may put these source documents with your class notes for future referral and use. For **Part II** and **III** you will read the *Source Documents* found in your textbook and then write a one-page essay. You will write an essay describing what you believe to be the main message of the texts and give three supporting reasons. (No more than 1 page.) See **Course Outline** below for the due dates and more information.
 - *Video Quizzes* will be worth **10%** of your grade. You will notice the video icon in each part of the class. Watch the videos and then take the *video tests* corresponding to the video. These are short 4-5 question quizzes that cover information learned in the video.
 - Three **Tests (Test I, Test II, and Test III)** will be given during the course including the final exam, which will not be exhaustive. Each test will count for **15%** of your grade. The tests will consist of Video Quiz and Source Document Quiz Questions along with additional information found in your book. A **study guide** will be given to direct your study from book information. Simply download the study guide, notice the information given and read the appropriate chapters for the test. Make sure you jot down the information obtained on your study guide (perhaps with a page number) for easy use during studying and testing.

- **10%** of your grade will be earned by completing a Research Paper. This will be due before August 15, 8 A.M. I will provide you topics to choose from for your Research Paper. You may ask to do another topic not found on the list, but there is no guarantee that I will accept it. You will use CMS (Chicago Manual of Style) documentation style. The Research Paper must have 10-12 pages double-spaced with a cover page, footnotes, and a works cited page at the end. You will need at least 6 sources for your paper that may consist of books, journals, articles, etc. It would be wise for you to run your sources by me because **credible resources make for a credible paper and poor resources make for a poor paper.**

The Research Paper in the course is paramount to this Instructor. Even though it is only worth 10% of your total grade, failure to submit a paper will result in a failing grade. Submitting a quality Research Paper, however, may result in extra credit.

Plagiarism will result in an immediate failing grade and submission to the Dean of Instructor and Students of Clarendon College. This Instructor appreciates a personalized paper over copy and paste.

- You may outline your **research paper** in four sections:
 - I. What are the basic beliefs, traditions, and practices? What is appealing and meaningful? What do you consider are its greatest attributes? Explain why!
 - II. What is disturbing (if anything) about this religious tradition? What is questionable about this religion? What is disagreeable? Explain why!
 - III. How does this religion deal with the issue of theodicy?
 - IV. How does this religion affect our world today? What is the contemporary and future relevance? How will this affect our future?
 - V. Write a strong conclusion to your findings.
- **10%** of your grade will be earned by participating in class discussion. You can find **class discussion** on you WebCT homepage.
 - I will post questions/discussion starters each class part. It is your responsibility to check class discussion daily and engage in participation. You will be expected to contribute to each question or topic at least two posts.
 - Your posts in class discussion must be made in complete sentences and substantial in content.
 - You will be expected to respond to comments made by other students in the class.
 - Some of our discussions will come from contemporary news dealing with religion in the world today so watch the news and stay informed.

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING SCALE:		My Grade
Entry Essay (My definition of religion)	5%	_____
Exam 1	15%	_____
Exam 2	15%	_____
Exam 3 (Final Exam)	15%	_____
Source Document Quizzes/Essays	10%	_____
Video Quizzes	10%	_____
Class Discussion on Discussion Board	10%	_____
Research Paper	10%	_____
Exit Essay (Evaluative and Reflective)	10%	_____
	Final Grade	_____

***It will be vital for the student to present a complete notebook at the end of the semester. A research paper is required for every student and failure to do so will result in an F.

A = 90-100; A clearly superior college level achievement
 B = 80-89; Above average college level performance
 C = 70-79; Average college level performance
 D = 60-69; Below average college level performance
 F = below 60; Failure to achieve minimum competency

*Accurate grades will be published to the Student Portal (CAMS).

*Final grades are considered absolute.

COURSE OUTLINE AND DUE DATES—Class opens 8/31

Lectures will be added throughout the course. You will be notified through email when new lectures are posted.

Part I

Read the Introduction and Overview and Chapters 1-3 (Part I Basic Religions). You will be responsible for this information. Use the Test Study Guide during your reading to locate and mark what will be on the test.

Lecture 1: Welcome, Class Syllabus, What does it mean to be religious?
What do people do with religion? A Historical response to religion.

Lecture 2: The Legality of Studying Religion at Clarendon College

Lecture 3: Faith Development

9/19 *Entry Paper Due by 11:55 P.M. (Email) My score _____ (5%)*

Lecture 4: Introduction to Religion: Why Study Religion?
World Religion and Worldviews
The Six Bases of Selection Used for Religions of the World
The Four Major Points Considered for Each Religion

Lecture 5: Theories of the Origin of Religion
Defining Religion
Ways of Understand and Interpreting Religion

9/25 *The following is due by 9/25, 11:55 P.M.*
Primary Document Quiz Due
Religion Is an Experience of Awe and Mystery Quiz
My score _____ (10% on average)
Religion Is the Opium of the People Quiz
My score _____ (10% on average)
Primary Document Quiz Due
Religion Is an Illusion Produced by Psychological Projection Quiz
My score _____ (10% on average)
Religion Is an Expression of Ultimate Concern Quiz
My score _____ (10% on average)
Rudolf Otto Video Quiz due
My score _____ (10% on average)
Karl Marx Video Quiz due
My score _____ (10% on average)
Sigmund Freud Video Quiz due
My score _____ (10% on average)
Paul Tillich Video Quiz due
My score _____ (10% on average)

Lecture 6: The Task of Defining Religion: Otto and Marx

Lecture 7: The Task of Defining Religion: Freud and Tillich

Lecture 8: Prehistoric Beginnings of Basic Religions

Lecture 9: Plato

Lecture 10: Philosophy of Religion: The Existence of God

Lecture 11: Philosophy of Religion: The Problem of Evil
Faith and Reason

10/15 ***The following quizzes due by 10/15, 11:55 P.M.***
Apache Girl's Rite of Passage Video Quiz Due
My score _____ (10% on average)
African Male Cutting Rite of Passage Video Quiz Due
My score _____ (10% on average)

Lecture 12: Indigenous Religions

10/17 **Exam 1 (20%) Due by 10/17, 11:55 P.M.**
My score _____.
NO MAKE UP EXAM AFTER THIS DATE

10/18 *****Sources for Research Paper Due for Approval by 11:55 P.M.**
Mail to lance.wood@clarendoncollege.edu
Remember, good sources make for a good paper. Poor sources, however,
always lead to a poor paper.

Part II

Read Chapters 4 and 6 covering Hinduism and Buddhism. You will be responsible for this information. Use the Test Study Guide during your reading to locate and mark what will be on the test.

10/24 ***The following is due by 10/24, 11:55 P.M.***
Hindu Source Document Essay Due (Email)
Read the "Source Material" on pages 285-291 and write an essay describing what you believe to be the main message of the texts and give three supporting reasons. (No more than 1 page.)
Write an essay describing what you believe to be the main message of the texts and give three supporting reasons. (No more than 1 page.)
My score _____ (10% on average)
Hindu Video Quiz Due
My score _____ (10% on average)

Lecture 13: Hinduism Part I

Lecture 14: Hinduism Part II

10/31 ***The following is due by 10/31, 11:55 P.M.***
Buddhism Source Document Essay Due (Email)
Read the “Source Material” on pages 157-162 and write an essay describing what you believe to be the main message of the texts and give three supporting reasons. (No more than 1 page.)
Write an essay describing what you believe to be the main message of the texts and give three supporting reasons. (No more than 1 page.)
My score _____ (10% on average)
Buddhism Video Quiz Due
My score _____ (10% on average)

Lecture 15: Buddhism Part I

Lecture 16: Buddhism Part II

11/7 **Exam 2 (20%) Due by 11/7, 11:55 P.M.**
My score _____.
NO MAKE UP EXAM AFTER THIS DATE

Part III

Read Chapters 10-13 (Religions Originating in the Middle East, Part IV). You will be responsible for this information. Use the Test Study Guide during your reading to locate and mark what will be on the test.

11/7 ***The following due 11/7, 11:55 P.M.***
Judaism Source Document Essay Due (Email)
Read the “Source Material” on pages 285-291 and write an essay describing what you believe to be the main message of the texts and give three supporting reasons. (No more than 1 page.)
My score _____ (10% on average)
Judaism Video Quiz
My score _____ (10% on average)

Lecture 17: Zoroastrianism and Judaism Part I

Lecture 18: Judaism Part II

11/14 ***The following due 11/14, 11:55 P.M.***
Christian Source Document Essay Due (Email)
Read the “Source Material” on pages 335-344 and write an essay describing what you believe to be the main message of the texts and give three supporting reasons. (No more than 1 page.)
My score _____ (10% on average)
Christian Video Quiz
My score _____ (10% on average)

Lecture 19: Christianity Part I

Lecture 20: Christianity Part II

11/28 *The following due 11/28, 11:55 P.M.*
Islam Source Document Essay Due (Email)
Read the “Source Material” on pages 374-381 and write an essay describing what you believe to be the main message of the texts and give three supporting reasons. (No more than 1 page.)
Islam Video Quiz
My score _____ (10% on average)

Lecture 21: Islam Part I

Lecture 22: Islam Part II

Lecture 23: Religion in Contemporary Settings; Ethics

12/5 **Exit Paper Due (10%) by 12/5, 11:55 P.M.**
My score _____.

12/12 **EXAM 3 (20%) Due by 12/12, 11:55 P.M.**
NO MAKE UP EXAM AFTER THIS DATE
My score _____.

Research Paper Grade _____.

Final Grade _____.

**This syllabus is subject to change without the consent of the student.*

Research Paper Topics:

- Any religion in the textbook or issue that concerns one of the particular religions.
 - A religion example: What Muslims Believe.
 - An issue of Islam example: The *Jihad* movement in Islam and its affect on the world, both the West and Middle East.
- Theodicy—This is a great subject that deals with evil in the world. Theodicy is the debate of God’s justice. If God is all-loving, all-knowing, and all-powerful, why does evil exists. Some believe that evil in the world discredits the notion that God exists and if he does he is not loving or caring to prevent evil. Each religion, you will notice, deals with the issue of evil. In fact, it defines most religions. Also, this is a practical and beneficial subject for real, personal life.
- Myth—What is a myth? What a myth is not? What is not a myth?
- Creation—Dealings with cosmogonies and cosmologies
- Animism—What is animism? What evidences do we have for ancient animistic practices? Are there any contemporary animistic practices?
- Ancestor Veneration—Its influence on the religions
- Religion and Violence
- Religion and Women
- Religion and Science
- Religion and the State
- A prominent historical religious figure:
 - Abraham
 - Moses
 - Zoroaster
 - Lao Tzu
 - Confucius
 - Sidhartha Guatama (Buddha)
 - Plato (Religious in the fact of his idea of the Forms and immortality of the soul.)
 - Jesus of Nazareth
 - St. Paul
 - St. Augustine
 - Mohammed the Prophet
 - St. Anselm of Canterbury
 - St. Thomas Aquinas
 - Martin Luther
 - John Calvin
 - Jonathan Edwards
 - David Hume
 - Immanuel Kant
 - Soren Kierkegaard
 - Friedrich Nietzsche

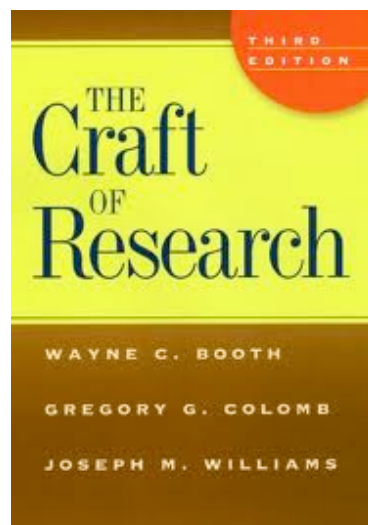
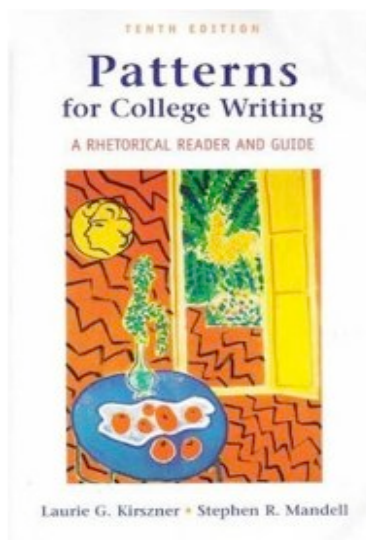
Research Paper Tips

- Know the due date. Don't procrastinate. Work gradually on your paper.
- Use the Chicago Manual of Style and Microsoft Word.
- Each quote, thought, and paragraph should be footnoted.
- 10-12 pages double-spaced.
- Use the resources at the Library.
- You will need to find 6 credible resources (Wikipedia will not be accepted and other websites are suspect as well.) Your textbook can be used as a source.
- Run your resources by me through email.
- Choose a topic that interests you.
- Do not use personal pronouns. For example: Don't write, "I believe..." Instead write, "The author of this paper believes..."
- Provide contrasting viewpoints in your paper. Don't let it be too one sided. This is an academic research paper and not a sermon or stump speech.
- Address what might be disturbing and beneficial about your topic.
- How does this religion or topic affect our world today and possibly in the future?
- Write a strong conclusion to your paper. The conclusion will show how well you have or have not grasped the research topic you have chosen. Don't be afraid to wrestle with the difficult spiritual and religious issues covered in this class. Be humble and honest but also be a critical thinker.

The Research Paper in the course is paramount to this Instructor. Even though it is only worth 10% of your total grade, failure to submit a paper will result in a failing grade. Submitting a quality Research Paper, however, may result in extra credit.

Plagiarism will result in an immediate failing grade and submission to the Dean of Instructor and Students of Clarendon College. This Instructor appreciates a personalized paper over copy and paste.

Resources you will need for college to help with writing research papers:



ACCOMODATIONS STATEMENT: Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for person with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations please notify the Office of Student Services (806-874-3571 or 1-800-687-9737). Clarendon College is committed to work towards the accommodations that are needed.

Withdrawal: If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on your transcript instead. Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive a grade of "F" on your transcript.

A student is permitted to drop a course if he/she obtains an official drop slip from the office and has the instructor sign the slip before the 12th class week.

Remember, a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Class Covenant
PHIL 1316

I have clearly understood the syllabus, requirements, and expectations of this class. I acknowledge that this syllabus is not exhaustive; therefore, changes may occur at anytime without notification and that the instructor is the sole authority of the classroom on discretionary, mandatory and conduct issues.

I understand that my input will affect the outcome competencies of this class. I recognize that my class participation is vital for my education. I understand that it is my responsibility to meet all the requirements set forth in the syllabus and the grade I receive will be a reflection of meeting those responsibilities and requirements.

I understand that this Internet class of five weeks will require several hours of dedication and work. I understand that Internet classes are not easier than a traditional class and may require more time and preparation.

I understand that it is my responsibility to turn my work in on time and that in this Internet class of five weeks there are no exceptions for late work.

Again, I understand that the instructor will not accept any assigned class work that is past the given due date.

I also understand that there will be no make-up exams given.

I understand that a technical failure on my part is no excuse for late work.

I will respect my instructor and the students in my class regardless of different religious beliefs or worldviews.

Circumstances not covered in the syllabus or class covenant will be decided fairly by the instructor, who, I trust, has the absolute authority to rule, judge, and decide fairly. I hereby concede the right to challenge any so called ambiguous course requirements and agree to abide by the general understanding of the course syllabus.

*I understand no work will be accepted until I accept this class covenant through an acknowledging email.

Student _____

Date _____