

CLARENDON COLLEGE
PHIL 1316 COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2011
M @ 5:00 P.M.

INSTRUCTOR: Lance Wood

OFFICE LOCATION: First Baptist Church, 300 S. Bubgee, Clarendon, TX. 79226, 874-3833 (W); 874-3926 (H); 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Only a few years ago the trend of philosophers and intellectuals was that religion was outdated and humanity had evolved past the need for it.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:

Noss, David S. A History of the World's Religions. 12th Edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2008.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Four tests will be given during the course including the final exam which will not be exhaustive.
- You are to write a *research paper* on one religion. The paper is to be *seven to eight* double spaced typed pages (no longer than eight). Each paragraph or thought must to be footnoted. You will need at least five sources and they must be approved by the Instructor. Wikipedia cannot be used as a source. Your text book, however, can be used as a credible source. The papers will be due as indicated on the syllabus.
- 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?
 - V. Write a strong conclusion to your findings.
- Your class notebook will be part of your grade. It will be graded as you take your Final Exam. Thus, keep good notes throughout the semester. The instructor will recognize each student's willingness or unwillingness to take and keep notes from class time. Effort and responsibility will be graded.
- Each student is expected to attend class and participate in discussion through comments and questions of the assigned material. So, read ahead and be ready to contribute to class debate and discussion.

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING SCALE:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Exam 4	20%
Research Paper	15%
Participation and Class Notebook	5%

(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

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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Your grade will reflect your attendance to the class. **More than 3 absences will result in a 2-point grade deduction for every class missed off of the final grade for the course.** There will also be a deduction of 10 points from the participation portion of the grade. Three tardies will be considered as 1 absence. If you are tardy it is your responsibility to talk to the instructor or you will have already been marked as absent. It is the students' responsibility to arrive early for class out of respect for the instructor and students.

Approved participation in school sponsored activities is not considered an absence. It is, however, the students' responsibility to inform the instructor prior to a school sponsored activity and turn in assignments prior to an absence.

Only under extreme circumstances will the student be able to make up a quiz or exam. Students absent for school sponsored activities please let me know you will be gone so you are not counted as absent.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT POLICY: Students are expected to conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner that is conducive to academic progress. Disruptive conduct is considered a serious offense. Faculty members reserve the right to remove a student from a class for just cause. Students removed will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action, up to and including disciplinary suspension. Cheating violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination before it is given; (3) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the using, stating, offering or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person without proper credit.) Plagiarism is considered serious academic misconduct. All speeches, papers, and critiques presented should be the work of the student enrolled in the course. Proper documentation should be made of materials cited from all sources. Instructors determining that a student has plagiarized a speech or paper or cheated on a test will assign a failing grade for that course and may elect to pursue disciplinary proceedings against the student.

10. If the student stops attending class, but does not officially withdraw or drop, the student's name remains on the roll. The student will be issued a grade on the work completed. Last day to withdraw/drop with a W is **the students responsibility**.

11. **NO CELL PHONES, NOTEBOOKS/LAPTOPS, CD PLAYERS, IPODS OR ANY OTHER ELECTRICAL GADGETS ALLOWED IN CLASS. THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DEDUCT TEN POINTS FROM THE CLASS PARTICIPATION PORTION THE STUDENT'S GRADE WITH EACH INTERRUPTION TO THE CLASS. PLEASE, DO NOT BRING THEM TO CLASS! ABUSE OF THIS POLICY COULD RESULT IN TERMINATION. *THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHARGE A \$25 RETURN FEE ON CONFISCATED CELL PHONES.**

12. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.** If you are going to be absent for any reason it is your responsibility to set a date with the instructor to take the exam before the date of the exam as noted on the syllabus. No exam will be given after the date determined on the syllabus. If you fail to take the exam you will receive an F for the course.

13. **ALL PAPERS are due as dated by syllabus. NO LATE RESEARCH PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

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.

COURSE OUTLINE

- 1/24 Introduction to World Religion
Worldviews
Religion in Prehistoric and Primal Cultures; 2-37
Sign and turn in Class Covenant before leaving class
- 1/31 Bygone Religions That Have Left Their Mark on the West; 38-78
Selections, Considerations, and Theories of Religion
Philosophy of Religion
- 2/7 Philosophy of Religion
Theodicy and how it relates to all world religions
- 2/14 **EXAM #1**
Early Hinduism: The Passage from Ritual Sacrifice to Mystical Union;
80-103
Later Hinduism: Religion as the Determinant of Social Behavior; 106-150
- 2/21 Jainism: A Study in Asceticism; 152-163
Buddhism in Its First Phase: Moderation in World Renunciation; 164-185
- 2/28 The Religious Development of Buddhism: Diversity in Paths to Nirvana;
186-238
Sikhism: A Study in Syncretism; 240-252
- 3/7 **EXAM #2**
Native Chinese Religion and Daoism; 254-288
- 3/14 Spring Break**
- 3/21 Confucius and Confucianism: A Study in Optimistic Humanism; 290-329
Shinto: The Native Contribution to Japanese Religion; 330-356
- 3/28 **EXAM #3**
Zoroastrianism: A Religion Based on Ethical Dualism; 358—379
Judaism in Its Early Phases: From Hebrew Origins to the Exile; 380-414

- 4/4 Judaism in Its Early Phases: From Hebrew Origins to the Exile; 380-414
The Religious Development of Judaism; 416-451
- 4/11 Christianity in Its Opening Phase: The Words and Work of Jesus in
Apostolic Perspective; 452-481
- 4/18 Christianity in Its Opening Phase: The Words and Work of Jesus in
Apostolic Perspective; 452-481
The Religious Development of Christianity; 482-540
- 4/25 Islam: The Religion of Submission to God: Beginnings; 542-577
The Shi'ah Alternative and Regional Developments; 578-609
Concluding remarks and analysis of current World Religions
- 5/2 FINAL (TBA) EXAM #4

**This syllabus is subject to change.*

Class Covenant
PHIL 1316
Spring 2008

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, by way of reading the text book and preparing for class, will affect the outcome competencies of this class. I fully know the consequences of bringing and/or using notebook computers and especially cell phones for texting during class is a grave offense and may result in an immediate letter grade drop and/or removal from class. I recognize that my class participation is vital for my education and the education atmosphere of the entire class. I will respect my instructor and the students in my class regardless of different religious beliefs or worldviews. I understand that my class assignments must be turned in on time unless there is an emergency situation so deemed by the instructor. I also understand that there will be no make-up exams given and it is my responsibility to schedule a time for my exam before the deadline date on the syllabus per agreement with instructor. 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.

Again, I understand the offensive nature of cell phones in the classroom and acknowledge a \$25 return fee on confiscated phones.

Student _____

Date _____