

**CLARENDON COLLEGE**  
**PHIL 1316 LEC195 COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Summer II 2001**

**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Only a few years ago the trend of philosophers and intellectuals was that religion was outdated and humanity had evolved past the need for it.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. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. N.J.: Pearson, 2009.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 40% of your grade will be earned by completing the work in the *religion kit* found at [www.myreligionkit.com](http://www.myreligionkit.com). A link to this page can be found on the homepage of your WebCT. I will provide the class ID you will need to log in. There will be four classes, thus four class ID's, that you will be given. The classes are broken into four parts as outlined in your textbook's contents found on pages vii-xi. Each part, or section, will have a beginning and ending date. You must complete the work for each section before the class closes on the ending date.
  - Read the chapter in the textbook.
  - Log into WebCT and click on the *myreligionkit* link.
  - Enter the ID you will be provided for the particular class that belongs to the section in the textbook.
  - Go to **chapter menu** and choose the correct chapter.
  - Complete the work in *Primary Documents* and submit answers for grading.
  - Complete multiple choice, essay questions, pattern match, and true and false questions, under *Chapter Review*, and submit answers for grading.
  - Web Destinations are for informative purposes. You may want to use some of these as resources for your Research Paper.
  - Some chapters will have: *My Atlas Essay*. Complete and submit for grading when present.
  - Go to **Videos** and complete the *study questions* after watching the videos in the appropriate chapters. Then, submit for grading.
- 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 and discussion starters each week of class. 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.
- 40% of your grade will be exams. You will have four exams that will correspond to the contents in your textbook. Thus, at the end of Part I in your textbook you will take the exam for that part. There will be no comprehensive exams. The final exam is not comprehensive; it will only cover Part 4, that is, the Religions of the Middle East. Practice quizzes will be provided on WebCT for your

convenience. The questions on the quizzes will also be on the Exams. Exam questions will also come from the questions completed in *myreligionkit*.

- 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 use the *Research Navigator* found on the home page of *myreligionkit* web page. Go to WebCT, click the *myreligionkit* link, then click *study and research tools*, then click on the *Research Navigator* logo. You will notice that at this site you will be able to access resources for your Research Paper as well as tips and helps for writing it. 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. Things to keep in mind for your Research Paper:
  - Due before August 15, 8 A.M.
  - Chicago Manual of Style.
  - Each quote, thought, and paragraph should be footnoted.
  - 10-12 pages double-spaced.
  - Become familiar with the valuable resources at *Research Navigator*.
  - 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.

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

## COURSE OUTLINE

- Basic Religions of the World, Chapters 1-3 July 11-July 19
  - Submit work from *myreligionkit* by July 19, midnight
  - Submit Exam 1 by July 19, midnight
  - Correspond to class discussion when presented
  
- Religions of South Asia, Chapters 4-7 July 20-July 28
  - Submit work from *myreligionkit* by July 28, midnight
  - Submit Exam 2 by July 20, midnight
  - Correspond to class discussion when presented
  
- Religion Originating in China and Japan, Chapters 8-9 July 29-August 6
  - Submit work from *myreligionkit* by August 6, midnight
  - Submit Exam 3 by August 6, midnight
  - Correspond to class discussion when presented
  
- Religions Originating in the Middle East, Chapters 10-13 August 7-August 18
  - Submit **Research Paper** by August 15, 8 A.M.
  - Submit work from *myreligionkit* by August 18, midnight
  - Submit Exam 4 by August 18, midnight
  - Correspond to class discussion when presented

### 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

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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, by way of reading the textbook and preparing for class, will affect the outcome competencies of this 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.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_