

Syllabus

PHIL2610/RELS2610 Comparative Religions/ Introduction to Comparative Religion

2012

Committee Members:

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Date Reviewed: 1-27-12

NCCA Council of Instructional Officers Chair

Dr. Dennis Headrick, Southeast Community College



Date Approved: _____

3/16/12

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHIL 2610 OR RELS 2610

Comparative Religions; Introduction to Comparative Religion

Prerequisite: Reading/writing skills at ENGL 1010 (or other basic English class required by a specific college, ENGL 1010) level or instructor's permission

This course will offer a cross-cultural introduction to the world's major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems through a comparison of historical origins, rituals, beliefs, practices worldviews, original religious texts, and other important sources. Interdisciplinary approach to study of religion and various approaches to study of religious systems are a part of the world religions traditions assessment.

3.0 semester credit hours/4.5 quarter credit hours/45 contact hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

1. Investigate knowledge of the world's major religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
2. Illustrate sacred texts and sources relevant to a variety of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
3. Evaluate works of recognized authorities relevant to a variety of religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
4. Examine questions raised by readings and discussion.
5. Assess the ability to use appropriate terminology to discuss and cite source material in support of a critical opinion about assigned work.
6. Compare and or contrast religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems as they apply to people of all backgrounds and cultures.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: *Students will be able to:*

1. Distinguish the major religious/philosophical traditions and faith systems of the world and the basic tenets of each.
2. Examine each tradition or faith system's origins, texts/sources, different worldviews, and cultural expressions.
3. Discuss religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems on a mature level.
4. Critically analyze course materials that involve exposure to original texts or cultural influences of differing religions.
5. Develop oral and written analyses which demonstrate critical thinking, reading, and writing.
6. Illustrate appropriate manuscript and/or research conventions as designated by the instructor.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (Chronology may vary):

1. Study and methods of religion/faith systems as an academic discipline
2. Native American and/or Indigenous religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
3. South Asian religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
4. East Asian religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.
5. Western religious/philosophical traditions or faith systems.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (*suggested texts*)

Original texts relevant for religions of the world and other works as assigned by the instructor.

1. **Suggested Texts**
 - a. The Major Religions – Patrick T. Burke
 - b. Exploring the World's Religions. Fifth Edition. Molloy, Michael.
 - c. Religions of the World – Lewis M. Hopfe

- d. The World's Religions – Huston Smith
 - e. Living Religions – Mary Pat Fisher
2. Supplemental hand-outs, audio/video materials and other resources supplied by the instructor.
 3. Outside reading/research as determined by the instructor.

VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION

Instructors should make use of varied pedagogical techniques including, but not limited to, several of the following: lectures, discussions groups, collaborative projects, research, peer response, assigned writing, conferences, computer-assisted instruction, interactive/creative methods, multimedia, and field trips.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

As determined by the instructor, course grades will be based on class and group participation, daily work, exams, presentations, projects, papers and/or a portfolio. The instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

(To be used at the discretion of each community college as deemed necessary)