

# PHIL R104: SURVEY OF WORLD RELIGIONS: WEST

**Originator**

chorrock

**College**

Oxnard College

**Discipline (CB01A)**

PHIL - Philosophy

**Course Number (CB01B)**

R104

**Course Title (CB02)**

Survey of World Religions: West

**Banner/Short Title**

Survey of World Religions:West

**Credit Type**

Credit

**Start Term**

Fall 2021

**Catalog Course Description**

This course explores the origins, core concepts and philosophical development of the major religions of the Near East, Europe and North and South America. The religions studied include Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Baha'i and post Columbian Native American religions. Discussion of contemporary applications of the metaphysical, ethical and social ideas found in western religions is encouraged.

**Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)**

1509.00 - Philosophy

**Course Credit Status (CB04)**

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

**Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)**

A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

**Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)**

N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

**SAM Priority Code (CB09)**

E - Non-Occupational

**Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)**

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

**Course Classification Status (CB11)**

Y - Credit Course

**Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

**Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)**

Y - Not Applicable

**Course Noncredit Category (CB22)**

Y - Credit Course

**Funding Agency Category (CB23)**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

**Course Program Status (CB24)**

1 - Program Applicable

**General Education Status (CB25)**

Y - Not Applicable

**Support Course Status (CB26)**

N - Course is not a support course

**Field trips**

May be required

**Grading method**

Letter Graded

**Does this course require an instructional materials fee?**

No

**Repeatable for Credit**

No

**Is this course part of a family?**

No

**Units and Hours**

**Carnegie Unit Override**

No

**In-Class**

**Lecture**

**Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours**

52.5

**Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours**

52.5

**Activity**

**Laboratory**

**Total in-Class**

**Total in-Class**

**Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours**

52.5

**Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours**

52.5

**Outside-of-Class**

Internship/Cooperative Work Experience

**Paid**

**Unpaid**

**Total Outside-of-Class**

**Total Outside-of-Class**

**Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours**

105

**Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours**

105

**Total Student Learning**

**Total Student Learning**

**Total Minimum Student Learning Hours**

157.5

**Total Maximum Student Learning Hours**

157.5

**Minimum Units (CB07)**

3

**Maximum Units (CB06)**

3

**Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Students will identify similarities among the major Western religious traditions.  |
| 2 | Students will describe differences among the major Western religious traditions.   |
| 3 | Students will be able to analyze sacred Western texts for depth of understanding, variety of interpretation, and breadth of meaning. |

**Course Objectives**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Describe the major philosophical concepts found in Western religions.   |
| 2 | Distinguish between foundational concepts and insights, and the historical development of Western ideas including contemporary expressions and practices.   |
| 3 | Analyze significant ethical teachings articulated in Western religions and explore their potential applications.  |
| 4 | Evaluate key social and political ideas articulated in Western religions, and compare their historical and contemporary relevance.  |
| 5 | Compare the analysis of religious concepts presented in original texts and primary sources with the use of secondary sources and interpretations or elaborations based upon those original texts. |
| 6 | Compare Western religious ideas, rituals, and social/cultural forms of life with Eastern religious ideas and forms of religious/cultural life.  |

**Course Content**

**Lecture/Course Content**

1. Introduction to the Study of Western Religions
  - a. Characteristics of the Philosophical Study of Religious Ideas
  - b. Concepts of Religion and the Sacred
  - c. Geographical and Historical Introduction to Western Religions
2. Zoroastrianism

- a. Sacred Story and Historical Context
  - b. Zoroastrian Concepts of Creation, Moral Dualism and Human Transformation
  - c. Rituals, Prayer and Ethical Ideals
3. Judaism
- a. Sacred Story and Historical Context
  - b. Jewish perspectives on God, Covenants and the Torah
  - c. Concepts of Sin, Repentance, Redemption and Human Transformation
  - d. Rabbinic Judaism, the Talmud and the Gemara
  - e. Jewish Rituals and Worship
  - f. Jewish Mysticism and the Kabbalah
  - g. Jewish Philosophy and Moses Maimonides
  - h. Contemporary Diversity in Jewish Religious Practice
  - i. Jewish Perspectives on Community and Social Activism
4. Christianity
- a. Sacred Story and Historical Context
  - b. Christian Concepts of God, the Trinity and the Hierarchy of Creation
  - c. Christian Concepts of Sin, Redemption, Salvation and Resurrection
  - d. The Role of Orthodox Authority and Institutionalized Religious Practice
  - e. Christian Mysticism and the Monastic Life
  - f. The Philosophical Challenge of the Protestant Reformation
  - g. Christianity as Developed in post-Colombian America, North and South
  - h. Contemporary Diversity in Christian Beliefs and Responses to Darwinism
  - i. Christian Perspectives on the Ethical Life
  - j. Christian Perspectives on Community, Government and Social Activism
  - k. Contemporary Eschatology and Perspectives on Global Responsibilities
5. Islam
- a. Sacred Story and Historical Context
  - b. Muslim Concepts of God, Prophecy and the Koran
  - c. Muslim Perspectives on Conquest, Conversion, Empire and Leadership
  - d. Muslim Perspectives on Nature, Science and Education
  - e. Practice of Islam: The Five Pillars and the way of Shari'ah
  - f. Muslim Perspectives on Community and Social Roles
  - g. Distinction of Sunni, Shia and Sufi Beliefs
  - h. The Challenge of Radical Islam and the Ideological Use of Violence
  - i. Islam in America
  - j. Islamic perspectives on Art and Architecture
6. Non-traditional Religious Movements in the West
- a. Millennialism
  - b. The Rise of the Mormon Church
  - c. Perspective of Liberal Theology
  - d. Baha'i
  - e. Theosophy
  - f. Migration of Eastern Religions into America
  - g. Pentecostal and Evangelical movements
  - h. Charismatic Catholicism
  - i. Scientology and the Unification Church
  - j. Nature Spirituality: Neo-Paganism and Wicca
  - k. New Age Movement
7. Native American Religious Tradition
- a. Creation Myths and World Views
  - b. Spirituality in relation to the Natural World
  - c. Religious Uses of Tradition and Ritual
  - d. Contemporary Interpretations of Native American Religion
8. Comparisons and Contrasts with Western Religion and Eastern Religions
- a. Metaphysics, Epistemology and Ethics
  - b. Spirituality and Divinity

- c. Doctrines and Practices
- d. Challenges going forward

### Laboratory or Activity Content

None

## Methods of Evaluation

**Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):**

Written expression

**Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):**

Essay exams  
 Essays  
 Group projects  
 Objective exams  
 Quizzes  
 Reports/papers  
 Research papers

## Instructional Methodology

**Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course**

Audio-visual presentations  
 Computer-aided presentations  
 Class activities  
 Distance Education  
 Instructor-guided interpretation and analysis  
 Lecture

**Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:**

1. Instructor will direct interactive instructional activities asking students to compare and contrast different Western religious traditions, philosophies, rituals, and practices as they evolved historically and migrated (cross-) culturally.
2. Guided and focused class discussions of representative mythological subject areas, topics, questions, and theories. These discussions would elicit student opinions on the relationship between Western religions relative to a larger topic (ex. Law/s and (group) identity); an Western religion relative to another Western religion; and/or (a) ancient/historical/traditional Western religion/s relative to current practice/s, perspectives, beliefs, etc.
3. Instructor will show video/s comparing and contrasting the relationship between (traditional Western academic) philosophical methods of experience and reasoning, with that of Western religious, spiritual, historical, cultural, (Western theological) philosophical, etc. belief systems and (specific) modes of experience and analysis/evaluation within/common-to those traditions.

## Representative Course Assignments

### Writing Assignments

1. Students assigned paper requiring philosophical explanation of a major concept such as the Zoroastrian concept of Dualism and suggest its significance for human life.

### Critical Thinking Assignments

1. Participate in class and small group discussions which engage in dialogue about traditional Eastern religious/philosophical notions of "God," as well as compare to contemporary perspectives, including (modern natural) science.
2. Compare and contrast normative and descriptive views of Western religious/spiritual traditions, and its/their relationship/s to/with conceptions of the Wisdom tradition/(wisdom literature), (especially as found in a broad reading of world philosophy)..

### Reading Assignments

1. Students read textbook chapter with corollary primary sources and prepare homework questions. Example: chapter on "Jewish Worlds of Meaning" is assigned along with selections from Jewish scriptures in reader. As homework, students asked to explain how the concept of the "Covenant" is deduced from the Mosaic narratives.

### Skills Demonstrations

None

**Other assignments (if applicable)**

1. Students interview a practitioner of a Western religion and write a report on what they learn about the concepts, ethics and rituals of that religion from the interview.

**Outside Assignments**

**Representative Outside Assignments**

1. Completing reading/s of primary source materials in worldwide comparative Western religion/s.
2. Completing reading/s of secondary source materials in worldwide comparative Western religion/s, including textbook materials, and other forms of interpretation.
3. Reviewing video of, for example, open-source university lectures on topics in worldwide comparative Western religion/s
4. Searching for video related to course topics, but not included in the syllabus, and/or course bibliography
5. Research electronic databases, e.g., Standard Encyclopedia of Philosophy, for additional material on a subject
6. Reviewing content found on university/4-yr. college philosophy department websites, including philosophy program features, instructor web pages (of recent work, professional background), student web pages, insofar as they are indicative of professional work within the field of Western religion/s
7. Weekly short essay assignments related to class lecture.
8. Library/Learning resource search-inquiries and assignments.
9. (Self)-Reports/-ing of searches/inquiries, outcomes of searches, interpretation/analysis of searches.

**Articulation**

**Comparable Courses within the VCCCD**

PHIL M11 - World Religions: West

PHIL V03B - Survey of World Religions: West

**District General Education**

**A. Natural Sciences**

**B. Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**C. Humanities**

**C2. Humanities**

Approved

**D. Language and Rationality**

**E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology**

**F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies**

**CSU GE-Breadth**

**Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking**

**Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning**

**Area C: Arts and Humanities**

**C2 Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English**

Approved

**Area D: Social Sciences****Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development****Area F: Ethnic Studies****CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:****IGETC****Area 1: English Communication****Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning****Area 3: Arts and Humanities****Area 3B: Humanities**

Approved

**Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences****Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences****Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)****Textbooks and Lab Manuals****Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**Brink, Denise; Carmody, T.L. (2014). *Ways to the Center: An Introduction to World Religions*. Cengage.**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**Van Voorst, R (2019). *Anthology of World Scriptures*. Cengage.**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**Fiesner, J., Powers, J (2012). *Scriptures of the West*. McGraw Hill.**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**Ludwig, T.M (2014). *The Sacred Paths of the West (This is most recent edition)*. Prentice Hall.**Resource Type**

Other Resource Type

**Description**

Video/DVD materials such as Who Wrote the Bible? Or The Long Search.

## Distance Education Addendum

### Definitions

#### Distance Education Modalities

Hybrid (51%–99% online)

Hybrid (1%–50% online)

100% online

### Faculty Certifications

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.

Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.

Yes

### Regular Effective/Substantive Contact

#### Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post a discussion board post on topics such as the difference/s as well as interdependence/s/-ies between Western religious belief systems (ex. the problem of evil), Eastern (religious) ritual practices (ex. prayer), and (core) philosophical concepts/questions, (ex. the meaning of Judaic, Christian, or Islamic religious life).
E-mail	Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may record audio recordings and/or video lectures on the course content including videos on metaphysics, epistemology, logic, social and political philosophy, philosophy of science, and/or axiology...within the context of each one's (relative) impact on the field of Western religion/s/theology and philosophy.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

#### Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
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**100% online Modality:**

<b>Method of Instruction</b>	<b>Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction</b>
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post a discussion board post on topics such as the difference/s as well as interdependence/s/-ies between Western religious belief systems (ex. the problem of evil), Eastern (religious) ritual practices (ex. prayer), and (core) philosophical concepts/questions, (ex. the meaning of Judaic, Christian, or Islamic religious life).
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Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

**Examinations**

**Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality**

- Online
- On campus

**Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality**

- Online
- On campus

**Primary Minimum Qualification**

PHILOSOPHY

**Additional Minimum Qualifications**

**Minimum Qualifications**

Religious Studies

**Review and Approval Dates**

**Department Chair**

09/20/2020

**Dean**

09/21/2020

**Technical Review**

10/28/2020

**Curriculum Committee**

10/28/2020

**DTRW-I**

MM/DD/YYYY

**Curriculum Committee**

12/09/2020

**Board**

MM/DD/YYYY

**CCCCO**

MM/DD/YYYY

**Control Number**

CCC000321800

**DOE/accreditation approval date**

MM/DD/YYYY