

PHIL R115: COMPARATIVE WORLD RELIGIONS

Originator

chorrock

College

Oxnard College

Discipline (CB01A)

PHIL - Philosophy

Course Number (CB01B)

R115

Course Title (CB02)

Comparative World Religions

Banner/Short Title

Comparative World Religions

Credit Type

Credit

Start Term

Fall 2021

Catalog Course Description

This course explores and compares the origins, beliefs, rituals, and ideals of the major world religions. Religions discussed include: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Further, one or more of the following traditions may also be examined: Shinto, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Greek, Roman, as well as indigenous traditions. Credit will not be awarded for both the honors and regular versions of a course. Credit will be awarded only for the first course completed with a grade of C or better or "P". This course is not available for credit for students who have already received credit in PHIL R103 and R104.

Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)

1509.00 - Philosophy

Course Credit Status (CB04)

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)

B (Transferable to CSU only)

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 analyze and/or compare concepts related to the major world religions. |
| 2 | Students will analyze and/or interpret scripture/s from the major world religions. |
| 3 | Students will write paragraphs that exhibit clarity, focus, command of world religion/s subject matter, and a logical development of ideas. |

Course Objectives

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Identify and describe origins, concepts, customs, and rituals of the seven major Eastern and Western religious traditions. |
| 2 | Evaluate religious and spiritual concepts, customs, and ideals in terms of their influence upon and contribution to the development, social identity, and cohesion within the culture in which they are located. |
| 3 | Compare and contrast the beliefs and practices of various religious traditions in their historical and contemporary contexts, including variations and disputes within the tradition. |
| 4 | Apply scholarly methodologies and critical thinking techniques, such as those found in the field of religious studies specifically and the social sciences generally. |
| 5 | Formulate reasoned views in writing about the philosophical similarities and differences within and among the major religious traditions, (such as, perspectives on reality, knowledge, ethics, society, etc.) |

Course Content

Lecture/Course Content

1. Comparative Study of World Religions
 - a. What is religion, and why is it important to the study of the world's religions?
 - b. How is the study of religion related to philosophy?
 - c. What are the main approaches, methods, and theories in field of religious studies?
2. Religion and Culture
 - a. The various meanings of the word "religion"
 - b. The origins, varieties, and characteristics of religion

- c. The functions, purposes, and values of religion
- d. The relationship of religion to art, science, and philosophy
- 3. The Major World Religions
 - a. Similarities and differences among the Eastern Religions
 - b. Living Religions that Originated in India
 - i. Hinduism
 - 1. Vedic sources
 - 2. Classical Hinduism
 - 3. Worship
 - 4. Rituals
 - 5. Symbolism
 - 6. Concept of god/gods
 - 7. Karma/samsara/rebirth
 - 8. Yoga
 - 9. Scriptures
 - 10. Ahimsa/non-violence
 - ii. Buddhism
 - 1. Origin in Hinduism
 - 2. Life of the Buddha
 - 3. The Four Noble Truths
 - 4. The Noble Eightfold Path
 - 5. The Middle Way
 - 6. Emptiness/Dependent Arising
 - 7. Yoga/Meditation
 - 8. Nirvana/Liberation
 - 9. Scriptures
 - 10. Theravada School
 - 11. Mahayana Practices
 - 12. Indian Buddhism
 - 13. Development of Buddhism
 - 14. Buddhism today/Buddhist ethics
 - c. Religions that originated in China
 - i. Confucianism
 - 1. The life of Confucius
 - 2. I Ching (Classic of Change)
 - 3. Gods/rites
 - 4. Filial Piety
 - 5. Humaneness/reciprocity
 - 6. Junzi/virtuousness
 - 7. Governance
 - 8. Influence: ancient and modern
 - ii. Taoism
 - 1. The life of Lao-Tzu (Laozi)
 - 2. The Tao Te Ching
 - 3. Wu-Wei/"action without intention"
 - 4. Yin and Yang
 - 5. Symbol, art, poetry
 - 6. Contrast with Confucianism
 - d. Similarities and differences among the Western Religions
 - e. Living Religions that Originated in the Near East
 - i. Judaism
 - 1. Prophets
 - 2. Scriptures
 - 3. Rabbinic interpretation/analysis
 - 4. Covenant, law, commandment
 - 5. Rituals/observances/holy days
 - 6. Ethical monotheism
 - 7. History: ancient to modern

8. Jewish Identity
 9. Persecution
 10. Christianity (from the Jewish perspective)
 11. Islam (from the Jewish perspective)
 12. Contemporary Judaism
- ii. Christianity
1. The life, times, and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth
 2. Beliefs
 - a. Monotheism
 - b. Salvation/ Resurrection
 - c. Trinity
 - d. Eschatology/end time
 3. Worship
 - a. Baptism
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Sacraments
 - d. Symbols
 4. Scriptures/Writings
 - a. "Old Testament" (Hebrew Bible)
 - b. New Testament
 - c. Criticism/apologetics
 5. History
 - a. Early Church
 - b. Early Middle Ages
 - c. High/Late Middle Ages
 - d. Protestant Reformation
 - e. Post-Enlightenment
 6. Major Denominations
 - a. Catholic
 - b. Orthodox
 - c. Protestant
 - d. Post-Protestant variations
 7. High Culture
 - a. Architecture
 - b. Art
 8. Christianity Today
 - a. Demographics
 - b. The U.S.
 - c. Beyond the U.S.
 9. Judaism (from the Christian perspective)
 10. Islam (from the Christian perspective)
- iii. Islam
1. The life, times, and teachings of the prophet Muhammad
 2. God/Allah/Monotheism
 3. The Koran
 4. Beliefs/Practice/The Five Pillars
 - a. Testimony
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Alms-giving
 - d. Fasting/Ramadan
 - e. Pilgrimage
 - f. Jihad
 5. Law/Jurists/Mullahs/Imams
 6. History
 1. a. Muhammad
 - b. Early Islam
 - c. Classical period

- d. Pre-Modern era
- e. Post-Enlightenment Islam
- 2. Denominations
 - a. Sunni
 - b. Shia
 - c. Sufism
- 3. High Culture
 - a. Architecture
 - b. Art
- 4. Islam today
 - a. Demographics
 - b. Unity of Muslim world
 - c. Conflict within Muslim world
- 5. Christianity (from the perspective of Islam)
- 6. Judaism (from the perspective of Islam)

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
Field trips
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 Eastern and Western religions useful for examining the topic of comparative world religion,
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 a religion relative to a larger topic (ex. death); an ancient myth/-ology relative to another ancient myth/-ology/(belief system); and/or an ancient myth/-ology 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 worldwide religious, spiritual, historical, cultural, etc. belief systems and (specific) modes of experience and analysis/evaluation within/common-to those (worldwide) traditions.

Representative Course Assignments

Writing Assignments

1. 3-5 page essay: Analyze a religious quote/concept: e.g, the Golden Rule, from the perspective of all the major religious traditions.
2. 1-2 page short essay: defend or reject an argument on behalf of a non-mainstream religious custom, e.g. animal sacrifice

3. (Short-answer, in class): "State the "problem of evil" (in Western theology) in 100 words or less."
4. 7-10 research paper: Compare and contrast several religious traditions on the topic of acceptance and use of violence, noting differences and disagreements within specific traditions themselves.

Critical Thinking Assignments

1. Participate in class and small group discussions which engage in dialogue about traditional notions of "self," "soul," "personhood," etc. from (worldwide/various) religious/spiritual traditions, and as related to today.
2. Compare and contrast normative and descriptive views of 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. Primary Sources: Worldwide scriptures
2. Main text/guide text: 40-60 pgs. per week
3. Journal articles/analytic papers

Skills Demonstrations

None

Other assignments (if applicable)

1. Review video open-source university lectures on topics in religion, spirituality, etc.
2. Research electronic databases, e.g., U.S. Bureau of Statistics, for additional material (e.g., demographic) on a subject.
3. Review Alexander Street Media Services/Films for original or significant video content.

Outside Assignments

Representative Outside Assignments

1. Completing reading/s of primary source materials in worldwide comparative religions.
2. Completing reading/s of secondary source materials in worldwide comparative religions, including textbook materials, and other forms of interpretation.
3. Reviewing video of, for example, open-source university lectures on topics in worldwide comparative 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 worldwide comparative 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 R103 - Survey of World Religions: East
 PHIL R104 - Survey of World Religions: West
 PHIL R115H - Honors: Comparative World Religions

District General Education

A. Natural Sciences

B. Social and Behavioral Sciences

B2. Social and Behavioral Sciences

Approved

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

Smith, H. (2009). *The World's Religions*. Harper Collins, (timeless classic). (NY/NY)

Resource Type

Textbook

Description

Miles, J. (General Editor) (2015). *The Norton Anthology of World Religions Vol.'s I and II*. W.W. Norton and Co..(NY/NY)

Resource Type

Textbook

Description

Carmody, D.; Brink, T.; (2014). *Ways to the Center: An Introduction to the World's Religions*. Cengage/Wadsworth. (Boston/MA)

Resource Type

Textbook

Description

Ballou, Robert O. (1977). *The Portable World Bible*. Portable Library (timeless classic). (Viking Press) (NY/NY)

Resource Type

Textbook

Description

Bolwyb, P.; Esposito, J.; Fasching, D.; Lewis, T (2011). *World Religions Today*. Oxford University Press (most recent edition available) .

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 religious belief systems, (religious) ritual practices, and (core) philosophical concepts/questions.
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 worldwide comparative religion/s.
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
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 religious belief systems, (religious) ritual practices, and (core) philosophical concepts/questions.
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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.

100% 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 religious belief systems, (religious) ritual practices, and (core) philosophical concepts/questions.
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 worldwide comparative religion/s.
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

Review and Approval Dates**Department Chair**

09/20/2020

Dean

09/21/2020

Technical Review

10/28/2020

Curriculum Committee

10/28/2020

Curriculum Committee

11/25/2020

CCCCO

MM/DD/YYYY

Control Number

CCC000562055

DOE/accreditation approval date

MM/DD/YYYY