Collin College
Introduction to World Religions (PHIL 1304.C01)
Fall 2014—Central Park Campus

Course Number: PHIL 1304

Course Title: Introduction to World Religions

Instructor’s Information:
   Instructor’s Name: Adam Miller
   Office Number: C200a (CPC)
   Office Hours: M 8-8:50am, 12:45-2:45pm, T 8-8:50am, Th 8-9:50am ,12:45-2:45pm
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Turnitin.com:
   Course Number: 8419744
   Course Password: Socrates

Class Information:
   Section Number: C01
   Meeting Times: TR 10am
   Meeting Location: LA 241 (CPC)

Course Description:
   A comparative study of world religions, including but not limited to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Course Credit Hours:
   Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite:
   Meet TSI college-readiness standard for Reading and Writing; or equivalent.

Course Resources (Required Texts):
   Barbara Miller, The Bhagavad-Gita (Bantam, 1986).
   ISBN: 0553213652
   ISBN: 0872202321
   ISBN: 0062501984
   ISBN-10: 0812975235
   ISBN-10: 1569751897
   ISBN-10: 0062508113
Supplies:
Essay “Blue Books” for the Final Exam (required).

Student Learning Outcomes:

State Mandated Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Read, analyze, and critique religious texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of beliefs, practices, values, and terminology of major world religions.
3. Trace the historical developments and cultural expressions of world religions.
4. Articulate key conceptual distinctions in world religions.
5. Communicate understanding of world religions, orally or in writing. (Critical Thinking; Communication Skills)
6. Communicate ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse religious beliefs. (Social Responsibility)

Additional Collin Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Demonstrate personal responsibility by doing independent work in PHIL 1304 and properly citing all sources. (Personal Responsibility).

Method of Evaluation:

Course Requirements:
1. Read, analyze, and critique religious texts
2. Demonstrate knowledge of beliefs, practices, and values of major world religions.
3. Trace the historical developments and cultural expressions of world religions.
4. Articulate key conceptual distinctions in world religions.
5. Communicate understanding of world religions, orally or in writing.
6. Reflect upon ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse religious beliefs.
7. Demonstrate personal responsibility by doing independent work in PHIL 1304 and properly citing all sources

Brief Description of Major Course Requirements:
The following elements will be required of all students:
(1) Each student must complete a short, daily writing assignment. In order to count as completed, a daily writing assignment must be: (a) original, (b) clear and detailed, (c) typed, (d) printed on paper, and (e) ready at the beginning of class. No daily writing assignments will be accepted late. A maximum of 100 pts. will be awarded. If a student has completed 80-100% completed = 100 points, 70-80% = 85 points, 50-70% = 75 points, 25-50% = 50 points, 0-25% = 25 points.
(2) Approximately seven in-class quizzes. The quizzes, 10 points each, are worth a maximum of 70 points. Late quizzes may be taken up until the last day of classes, but with a 20% deduction.
(3) Three 5-page “analysis papers” to be completed in accordance with the detailed instructions given in class. The papers are worth 100 points each for a maximum of 300 points altogether. Late papers will be accepted up until the last day of classes, but with a 20% deduction. Papers must be turned in using www.turnitin.com.
(4) One final exam that is comprehensive consists entirely essay questions. The exam is worth a maximum of 200 points.
Grading:
The four elements outlined above in the section entitled “Brief Description of Major Course Requirements” add up to an approximate total of 670 possible points for the semester. Grades will be determined simply by calculating the percentage of possible points earned. A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=0-59%.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required. Being tardy when attendance is taken constitutes an absence for that day.

Withdrawal Policy:
See the current Collin Registration Guide for the last day to withdraw.

Collin College Academic Policies:
See the current Collin Student Handbook.

Americans with Disabilities Act:
Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, D-118(I), 972.548.6816. (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current Collin Student Handbook for additional information.

Collin College Academic Policies:
See the current Collin Student Handbook.

7-2.2 Scholastic Dishonesty
Every member of the Collin College community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Collin College may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list and scholastic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any conduct through electronic or computerized means. Scholastic dishonesty shall involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts:

General Scholastic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment, credit or class work, research, and/or the award of a degree; falsifying academic records; using annotated texts or teacher’s editions; using information about exams posted on the Internet or in any electronic medium; leaving a test site without authority; failing to secure test materials; and/or submitting work that is not one’s own. All work submitted for credit is expected to be the student’s own work. Students are expected to record honestly and accurately the results of all their research. Falsification of research results includes misrepresentation, distortions, or omissions in data or reports on research.

Plagiarism is the use of an author’s words or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation. In the preparation of all papers and other written work, students must distinguish their own ideas and knowledge from information derived from other sources. The term “sources” includes not only published primary and secondary materials, but also information and opinions gained directly from other people. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a source, the source must be indicated by the student.
Cheating is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination or to complete an assignment; collaborating with another student during an examination without authority; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance; unauthorized copying of computer or Internet files; using someone else’s work for assignments as if it were one’s own; submitting or resubmitting an assignment (in whole or in part) for more than one (1) class or institution without permission from the professor(s); or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

Collusion is intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, failing to secure academic work; providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance or unauthorized collaboration; communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or any other course assignment; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site; and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

Students found responsible for scholastic dishonesty offenses will receive an authorized disciplinary penalty or penalties from the Dean of Student Development Office. The student may also receive an academic penalty in the course where the scholastic dishonesty took place. The faculty member will determine the appropriate academic penalty.

Tentative Course Calendar:
- Week of August 25 – The World’s Religions pp. 1-81
- Week of September 1 – Bhagavad-Gita Bks. I-X
- Week of September 8 – Bhagavad-Gita Bks. X-XVIII
- Week of September 15 – World’s Religions pp. 82-153, Teachings of the Buddha, Suttas 1-4
- Week of September 22 – Basic Teachings of the Buddha, Suttas 5-10

First Analysis Paper Due – September 26
- Week of September 29 – Basic Teachings of the Buddha, Suttas 11-16
- Week of October 6 – The World’s Religions pp. 196-220, Tao Te Ching, pp. 1-42
- Week of October 13 – Tao Te Ching, pp. 43-81

Second Analysis Paper Due – October 24
- Week of October 27 – The Essential Koran: pp. 1-71
- Week of November 3 – The Essential Koran, pp. 71-144.
- Week of November 24 – The Lost Gospel Q, pp. 33-63

Third Analysis Paper Due – November 28
- Week of December 1 – The Lost Gospel Q, pp. 63-118.

Final Exam – December 9

Additional Instructor Policies:
- Electronic Equipment: No electronic equipment (laptops, cell phones, MP3 players, etc.) may be used without permission during class. Text messaging during class is absolutely prohibited. After one warning, each violation of this policy may result in up to a 1% deduction from the student’s final grade.
- Food & Drink: Both food and drink are strongly discouraged during class. Please contact me if exceptions are needed.
- Grading: Additional clarification about any grade may be requested. However, grades will be reevaluated only within a week of when the assignment is returned and only with a written explanation of why, in the student’s view, the assignment received the grade in question and why that grade merits reevaluation.

- Course Drop Limit Provisions (Texas Education Code 51:907): Students who enroll as an entering freshman or a first-time college student in undergraduate courses at any Texas public community college, technical institute, health sciences institution, or any public university offering undergraduate courses must comply with the legislation of TEC51.907. TEC51.907 states that students who enroll for the first time during the fall 2007 semester, or any subsequent semester, are subject to the course drop limit of six course drops. This includes any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution. Collin College will not begin to count dropped course until the fall 2009 semester. For more information, please contact Academic Advising or the Admissions and Records Office on any campus.

- Privacy: Federal privacy laws (FERPA) exclude my discussing your participation in this course with anyone other than yourself (even a parent or guardian) without written permission. Information about grades cannot be given over the phone or by email (except through your official cougarmail account).

- Response Time: Excluding weekends, students can expect to typically receive replies to emails within 24-48 hours. If a reply has not been received within this time-frame, please re-send the original message.

- Links to External Sites: This course includes distance learning components which may contain links to Web Sites operated and maintained by other public or private entities. While Collin College instructors provide link information to these sites, the College assumes no responsibility for the privacy practices or the content of such Web sites. It is recommended that users consider the individual privacy policy statements of each web site they visit.

- Copyright: Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection.

- Syllabus Changes: All elements of this course and syllabus are subject to change for the benefit of the students.