**COLLIN COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Information

**Course Number:** PHIL 1304

**Course Title:** Introduction to World Religions

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

**Course Credit Hours:** 3

Lecture Hours: 3

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

**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:

Demonstrate personal responsibility by doing independent work in PHIL 1304 and properly citing all sources. (Personal Responsibility).

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

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

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:** 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 educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, PRC-F144c or (972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current *Collin Student Handbook* for additional information.

**COURSE NUMBER:** **PHIL 1304. P70**

**COURSE TITLE:** **Introduction to World Religions**

**DELIVERY METHOD:** Lecture/Open discussion

**CLASS:** Tuesday - 7:00pm - 9:45pm (Room U107)

**PROFESSOR:** Andy Essary

**TELEPHONE:** 972-377-1506 (leave message)

**OFFICE / HOURS:** Preston Ridge Campus (U107) Tuesday, 6:30pm – 7:00pm (by appointment)

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** aessary@collin.edu

**WEB SITE:** http://faculty.collin.edu/aessary/

Credit hrs: **3** Lecture hrs: **3** Pre-requisite: Must have taken and passed the READ test with minimum grade

**College Repeat Policy:** A student may repeat this course only once after receiving a grade, including “W.”

**Student Technical Support:** Provided 24/7 at 972-377-1777 or sts@collin.edu

**Campus Security:** In case of emergency, contact Campus Police at 972-578-5555.

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of religious traditions: Eastern and Western, ancient and modern. Special emphasis on such topics as the nature of God, religious experience, immortality and human freedom.

**II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The successful completion of this course will not make you an expert on any religions, however, you will be able to:

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 an 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)
7. Demonstrate personal responsibility by doing independent work in PHIL 1304 and properly citing all sources. (Personal Responsibility

Because this is a philosophy class, significant emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, clarity, and argumentation. You might consider the possibility God provided you the means to seek His essence and understand your relationship with that essence through a never-ending quest.

1. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

## Reading of assignments:

##### Students are expected to complete all readings as assigned.

##### Class participation:

It is important that all students contribute during class discussions. **Your ideas matter!** The class fails to benefit from your thoughts if you fail to voice them. A diversity of views and your consideration of them will result in increased credibility for your ideas.

## Quizzes:

## Quizzes will cover assigned readings. You will not get from this class what you should without reading the assignments. I will provide you a take-home quiz each week to answer as you complete your assigned readings. No credit will be given for late quizzes.

## Term paper:

You will be assigned a term paper during the semester giving you the opportunity to express your ideas. The purpose of this assignment is to help you properly identify religious issues, and begin to engage in the process of clarifying your questions through writing. **Papers will be typed or computer-printed; 12 or 10 c.p.i.; double-spaced; ½ inch margin all-around; cover page with your name; and NO binder of any kind – single staple in upper left corner suffices.** Late papers or paper submissions failing to meet the above criteria will receive zero points.

1. Final exam:

The final exam will verify your grasp of theories and ideas you’ve read and discussed in class.

1. Cheating:

Cheating and/or plagiarism on any assignment in this class may result in a course grade of “F.”

1. Extra Credit:

There will be no extra credit assignments.

#### IV. STUDENT EVALUATION

### Class participation (100); attendance (100); and tardiness (100) = 300

### Periodic quizzes = 400

### Term Paper = 200

### Final exam = 100

1000

**A** = 900 - 1000 **B** = 800 - 899 **C** = 700 - 799

**D** = 600 - 699 **F**  = 599 & below

**V.** **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Each student is expected to attend **ALL** classes. Without exception, each absence will reduce a student's final point tally by **15** points if excused and **20** points if unexcused. Absences are excused at the teacher’s discretion and notice must be provided prior to class via e-mail. **10** points will be deducted for each tardiness.

**VI. CLASSROOM RULES**

## **All** electronic devices must be turned off. Unless I grant permission, none may be used.

##### The only conversations allowed in class will involve me as a participant.

**VII.** **REQUIRED TEXTS**

### Smith, H., The World’s Religions. HarperOne, 1991. ISBN 978-0-06-166018-4

Ehrman, B., Lost Christianities. Oxford University Press, 2003. ISBN 978-0-19-518249-1

Required supplies – 15 Scantrons

**VIII.** **COURSE CALENDAR**

**Week 1** Tuesday Aug. 28Introduction

**Week 2** TuesdaySept. 4 The World’s Religions

Point of Departure – Pages 1-11

Hinduism – Pages 12-77

**Week 3** TuesdaySept. 11The World’s Religions

Buddhism – Pages 82-149

**Week 4** TuesdaySept. 18 The World’s Religions

Confucianism – Pages 154-193

**Week 5** TuesdaySept. 25 The World’s Religions

Taoism – Pages 196-218

**Week 6** TuesdayOct. 2 The World’s Religions

Islam – Pages 221-268

**Week 7** TuesdayOct. 9 The World’s Religions

Judaism – Pages 271-315

**Week 8** TuesdayOct. 16The World’s Religions

Christianity – Pages 317-339

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Oct. 19 LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Week 9** TuesdayOct. 23 The World’s Religions

Christianity – Pages 339-362

**Week 10** TuesdayOct. 30 Lost Christianities

Pages 1-46

**Week 11** TuesdayNov. 6Lost Christianities

Pages 47-89

**Week 12** TuesdayNov. 13 Lost Christianities

Pages 91-134

**TERM PAPER DUE**

**Week 13** Tuesday Nov. 20 Lost Christianities

Pages 135-180

**Week 14** Tuesday Nov. 27 Lost Christianities

Pages 181-227

**Week 15** Tuesday Dec. 4 Lost Christianities

Pages 229-257

**Week 16** TuesdayDec. 11 **FINAL EXAM – 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Religious Holy Days:**

Please refer to the current *Collin Student Handbook.*

**Academic Ethics:** 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. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission of one’s own work material that is not one’s own. Scholastic dishonesty may involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, use of annotated texts or teacher’s editions, use of information about exams posted on the Internet or electronic medium, and/or falsifying academic records. 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:

**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.

**Cheating** is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination; 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, copying computer or Internet files, using someone else’s work for assignments as if it were one’s own; 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; 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.

**See the current *Collin Student Handbook* for additional information.**