

PHL 260

WORLD RELIGIONS

3 cr. (3-0)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course will cover the teachings and histories of the world's major religions: Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism.

PREREQUISITES: None**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Reflect in a critical and evaluative manner on the major world religions covered in class.
- Students will have learned the basic issues around which all religions arise, and are practiced.
- Students will have gained a general understanding of the various “doctrines,” institutions, and practices of the major religions discussed in class.
- Students will be able to articulate their own analysis of the nature of religion in general, and individual religions in particular.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I Hinduism
- II Buddhism
- III Taoism
- IV Islam
- V Judaism
- VI Christianity

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reading Assignments: To be announced in class.

Attendance Policy: Students will be given five **unexcused** absences. Each unexcused absence after five will result in a half grade deduction from the student's overall grade.

Student Success Center. Tutors may be obtained through the Student Success Center. Contact the staff in C219 if this service is desired. John A. Logan College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any student with a disability that may have some impact on work in this class, who feels she/he needs an accommodation, should make an appointment with the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities on campus, Jennifer Frost, Room C219B, Ext. 8516. Before services can be provided, this advisor must determine eligibility and arrange appropriate academic adjustments. ***It is the student's responsibility to register in advance of a school term with this office and to turn in a schedule each term to ensure that there is every opportunity for success in this class.***

English Writing Center/Tutoring. For assistance with writing assignments in any college course, students are encouraged to visit “The Write Place” in Room E109. English instructors are available for one-on-one tutoring each semester during hours posted at the center.

Financial Aid. Students who receive financial assistance and completely withdraw from classes prior to 60% of the semester being completed (approximately 2-3 weeks after midterm) could be responsible to return a portion of their Federal Pell Grant award. Prior to withdrawing from courses, students should contact the Financial Aid Office.

Course Withdrawal Information. It is expected that you will attend this class regularly. If you stop attending for any reason, you should contact your advisor and withdraw officially to avoid the posting of a failing grade (an E) to your transcript. It is also advisable to discuss the situation with your instructor before dropping.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

4 Evaluative Papers: Four papers will be required in this course, in which the student evaluates a religion in terms of the answers it gives to the “human dilemma.” These papers will be 2-3 pages in length, and will follow the general format presented in class. Students may choose for themselves which religions they want to evaluate. Each paper will be worth 50 points, for a total of **200 points** for all the papers combined.

Final Exam: There will be a cumulative final at the end of the semester. Students will be given a study sheet prior to the exam, and class time will be set aside for a “semester-review” just prior to the final exam. The final exam will be worth **200 points**.

Term Paper: A term paper, on the religion of the student’s choice, will be required for this course. The paper will consist of a more in-depth analysis of one of the religions we studied in class. The paper will require some outside research, though the hope is that the student will be researching areas that were of special interest to her or him. The term paper will be worth **200 points**.

Grading Scale:

600 - 540	=	A
539 - 480	=	B
479 - 420	=	C
419 - 360	=	D
359 - 0	=	E

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Reading assignments, and a mixture of lecture and class discussion

TEXT:

Huston Smith. *The World’s Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions*. San Francisco: Harper, 1991.

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DATE: Spring, 2007

John A. Logan College Telephone Numbers

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Carbondale and Jackson County	549-7335 (operator)
	457-7676 (direct extension access)
Du Quoin	542-8612
West Frankfort.....	937-3438
Crab Orchard, Gorham, & Trico areas	1-800-851-4720
TTY (hearing-impaired access)	985-2752

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