

A course outline for World Religions, for a website.

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Northwest Arkansas Community College
Philosophy and Religion Course

PHIL 2033: WORLD RELIGIONS

Catalog Description:

An examination of the major living religions of the world, with an emphasis on Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Prerequisite:

None.

Credit hours/Contact hours/Load hours:

3/3/3

Target Audience and Transfer:

This course is designed for students seeking an Associate of Arts degree and for students transferring to the University of Arkansas. PHIL 2033 will transfer to the University of Arkansas.

General Course Outcomes:

By the end of the course the student should have an understanding of the basic beliefs of some of the world's living religions, including Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In addition to basic theological considerations, familiarity with each of these religions includes some knowledge of its history and its sacred texts, biographical information about the founder (if any) of the religion, an overview of important customs and rites of the religion, and examining major challenges for the religion in modern society. The course will also survey some of the influential scientific theories of the origin of religions that have been offered in the social sciences. The course will also examine some of the characteristics of basic, pre-technological religions, and students should be able to identify some of these general features in contemporary major religions.

Required Text:

Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark Woodward, Religions of the World, 10th edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006).

Topics Include Some Or All of the Following:

- I. A Definition of Religion
- II. Theories of the Origin of Religion
- III. Characteristics of Basic Religions
- IV. Native American Religions
- V. African Religions
- VI. Hinduism
- VII. Jainism
- VIII. Buddhism
- IX. Sikhism
- X. Taoism and Confucianism
- XI. Shintoism
- XII. Zoroastrianism
- XIII. Judaism
- XIV. Christianity
- XV. Islam
- XVI. Baha'i

Required Methods of Instruction:

Individual instructors may design the course in any number of ways keeping course objectives in mind. They may include lecture, audio-visual materials, guest speakers, field trips, oral presentations, book reviews, and research papers.

Required Forms of Assessment:

Individual instructors have broad latitude in making assessments. Instructors are expected to include some form of essay question on the exam(s).

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