

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: World Religions

Number & Section: PHL 151

Course Description: This three-credit course is an introduction to many of the major religious traditions that have influenced humankind. The course will consider the various dimensions of living religions which all traditions share. This semester we will be discussing Zoroastrianism through Mahayana Buddhism as well as the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Questions to be explored will include: how we came to be here and how each religion has humanity relating to the divine.

Goals:

1. To inform the student on a variety of religions practiced throughout the world
2. To enable the student to think in an objective, rational, and informed manner
3. To help students develop critical thinking and writing skills

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

1. Apply critical thinking skills that will empower him/her to achieve a higher understanding of the basic belief systems of these religions
2. Recognize and illustrate the yearning of the human in relation to the divine
3. Differentiate the major religious beliefs and appraise the uniqueness of each religion
4. Describe each religion in light of its historical or physical origin
5. Illustrate each religion's relationship with its parent faith(s), cousins faith(s) and its potential or actual offspring
6. Identify how a religion's sense of the divine has either changed or evolved
7. Relate how all faiths' individual ethics/laws describe either their unique human condition or their relation to the divine
8. Describe the influence that major religious traditions have on the development of various social and ethical theories as well as actual laws
9. State and write clearly about religious beliefs and structures