

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: PHIL 8

Title: COMPARATIV RELIGION

Full Title: Comparative Religion

Last Reviewed: 9/24/2018

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**  
Study and comparison of the major Eastern religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism) and of the major Western religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam).

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Completion of ENGL 100B or ENGL 100.

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: Study & comparison of major world religions, both Eastern & Western. (Grade or P/NP)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:  
Recommended: Completion of ENGL 100B or ENGL 100.  
Limits on Enrollment:  
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.  
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	E	Humanities		Fall 1981	
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy			
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	C2	Humanities		Fall 1981	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	3B	Humanities		Fall 1981	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	

### **CID:**

#### **Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Not Certificate/Major Applicable

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

The student will:

- (1) Describe the main philosophical tenets of the major world religions, including but not necessarily limited to Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- (2) Critically evaluate these same philosophical tenets.
- (3) Show the internal relationships between the ideas examined in each of the religions under consideration.
- (4) Compare and contrast the various religions with respect to their conceptions of things such as: ultimate reality, the physical world, humankind, afterlife and morality.
- (5) Demonstrate an understanding of the origin, the historical development and the cultural setting of each of the religions covered, in so far as such considerations help elucidate the religious philosophies.

### **Topics and Scope:**

The sequence of the topics presented in Philosophy 8 often varies, but a typical course includes the following:

1. Introduction to the key concepts, theories and criteria to be used in the philosophical study of world religions (e.g. ultimate reality, theology, mythology, afterlife, religious authority, scriptures, rituals, morality, history).
2. Hinduism - topics include: Yedic mythology, the Yedas, the relationship between classical and post-classical Hinduism, the Trimurti (Brahma, Shiva, Vishnu), polytheism and monotheism, Brahman-Atman, maya, paths to salvation, four stages of life, samsara, the Bhagavad Gita, the Law of Karma, reincarnation and caste.

3. Buddhism - topics include: the Life of Buddha, the relationship between Buddhism and Hinduism, the Four Noble Truths, the Eight fold path, Nirvana, the relationship between Theravada and Mahayana, the role of deities in Buddhism, the Bodhisattva, anatman, Zen Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism.
4. Confucianism - topics include: the life of Confucius, historical context of Confucianism, social and political philosophy, li, jen, the role of family, Confucian education, religious and non-religious aspects of Confucianism, and the relationship between Confucianism, Realism, Mohism, and Taoism.
5. Taoism - topics include: the life of Lao Tzu, the Tao Te Ching, the concept of Tao, the Taoist conception of nature, wu-wei, yin-yang, Taoist relativism, the relationship between Taoism and Zen, pacifism, popular Taoism and deities.
6. Judaism - topics include: the Patriarchs, the Prophets, creation, the Exodus, the Diaspora, monotheism, moral/social philosophy, the significance of Judaic history, scripture, the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, Zionism, the Holocaust, and the relationship between Orthodox, Reform and Conservative branches of Judaism.
7. Christianity - topics include: the life of Jesus, the Resurrection, the disciples, the early church, the Incarnation, the doctrine of Original Sin, the Trinity, theology, morality, afterlife, the Last Judgement, religious authorities, politics, Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Protestantism and relationship with Judaism.
8. Islam - topics include: the life of Mohammad, the Hegira, the Koran, Allah and monotheism, the Five Pillars, the Sunnis, the Shi-ites, social and moral philosophy, racial attitudes, the status of women, jihad, relationship between Islam, Judaism and Christianity and recent political developments.

### **Assignment:**

Assignments for Philosophy 8 vary but typically include the following:

1. Regular reading assignments from course texts and supplementary materials.
2. Regular or occasional quizzes which cover the assigned readings. Quizzes may be either multiple choice or short essay.
3. At least two midterm examinations. Each exam is approximately one hour long. Students must write in-class essays in response to questions on material covered in class and in texts.
4. A final examination - approximately 2-3 hours long. Students must write in-class essays in response to questions on material covered in class and in text.
5. Students may also be required to write a paper in which they research an issue raised in class and defend a particular position on that issue.
6. Students will be encouraged to participate in class discussions.

### **Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Written homework, Essay exams, Term papers

Writing  
65 - 85%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, SHORT ESSAY OR QUIZZES

Exams  
5 - 25%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Other Category  
10 - 20%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS & A COMPLETELY REVISED & UPDATED EDITION OF THE

RELIGIONS OF MAN, Harper San Francisco, 1991.

THE SACRED PATHS, Theodore M. Ludwig, 2nd ed., Prentice Hall, 1996.

PATHS OF FAITH, John A. Hutchison, 4th ed., McGraw Hill, 1991

THE WORLD'S WISDOM: SACRED TEXTS OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS, Philip Novak,

1st ed., Harper San Francisco, 1994.