

PHIL 8 Course Outline as of Fall 2003**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: PHIL 8 Title: COMPARATIVE RELIGION

Full Title: Comparative Religion

Last Reviewed: 1/27/2025

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 of the philosophies underlying the major Eastern and Western religions and the interrelationships between those philosophies.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:****Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: Study of the philosophies underlying the major Eastern and Western religions and the interrelationships between those philosophies. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended:

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

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

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 2025	
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy		
	L3	Arts and Humanities		
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	Fall 2025
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy		
CSU GE:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1981	
IGETC:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1981	
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Not Certificate/Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

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

- (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) Describe the origin, the historical development, the cultural setting, and the global spread of each of the religions covered, in so far as such considerations help elucidate the religious philosophies and their interrelationships.
- (6) Describe how these religions have influenced each other throughout history.

Topics and Scope:

Topics include some of the following:

1. Key concepts and theories used in the philosophical study of world religions (e.g., ultimate reality, theology, mythology, afterlife, monotheism vs. polytheism, morality, history, rituals, scripture)

2. Historical development, tenets, and texts of the major world religions, including
 - a. Hinduism (Bhagavad Gita, Trimurti, Brahman-Atman, maya, karma, samsara, caste system, four stages of life, yogas/paths)
 - b. Buddhism (life of Buddha, relation to Hinduism, Four Truths, Eightfold Path, Tripitaka, anatman, nirvana, bodhisattva, Theravada vs. Mahayana, zen, Tibetan Vajrayana)
 - c. Confucianism (life & historical context of Confucius, li, jen, filial piety, education, relation to Taoism)
 - d. Taoism (legend of Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching, Chuang Tzu, I Ching, tao, wu-wei, yin-yang, popular deities, relation to Zen Buddhism)
 - e. Judaism (creation, Patriarchs, Prophets, Exodus, Diaspora, relation to Christianity, Zionism, Orthodox, Reform & Conservative branches, Holocaust)
 - f. Christianity (life of Jesus, relation to Judaism, resurrection, disciples, early Christians, incarnation, original sin, Trinity, last judgment, Roman Catholicism vs. Protestantism vs. Eastern Orthodoxy)
 - g. Islam (life of Muhammad, Five Pillars, Sunnis vs. Shi'ites, Sufism, jihad, relation to Christianity & Judaism, fundamentalist political movements)
3. The manner in which various religious ideologies have influenced each other throughout history.
4. The effects that interrelationships between religions have had upon global events and international relations.

Assignment:

May include any/all of the following:

1. Readings from course text and/or supplementary materials
2. Group discussion of specific issues raised in readings or lecture
3. Short essays (2-4 pages) comparing and contrasting various aspects of the major religions
4. Research project and written essay (5-10 pages) defending a specific position on a comparative issue.
5. Quizzes (multiple choice and/or short answer) on assigned readings
6. Midterm examinations including essay, short answer, and multiple choice sections
7. Final examination including essay, short answer, and multiple choice sections

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, Term papers

Writing 45 - 65%

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, Essay exams, short answer quizzes

Exams
25 - 45%

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

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Other Category
10 - 20%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

PATTERNS OF RELIGION, Roger Schmidt et al
1st edition, 1999, Wadsworth

EXPERIENCING THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS, Michael Molloy
2nd edition, 2002, McGraw-Hill

WORLD RELIGIONS TODAY, John L. Esposito, et al
1st edition, 2002, Oxford. U. P.

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD, Lewis M. Hopfe & Mark R. Woodward
8th edition, 2001, Prentice-Hall