



Harrisburg Area Community College
Communications, Humanities, and the Arts Department
Lancaster Campus (Remote)
Fall 2020 Semester (Late Start)

“Comparative Religion”

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(& messaging, iOS)
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Office Hours: 1:45 pm – 2:15 (TR) **Subject/CRN:** PHIL 200-23054
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM (TUESDAY ONLY)
website: davidwaynelaymanphd.com/hacc

Course Information

Meeting Time: T 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM
Meeting Location: REMOTE

Catalog description: Explores the central beliefs of the major world religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This course addresses the varieties of religious experience from both Eastern and Western cultural traditions with an emphasis upon the similarities and differences among their major teachings. (Core A) (D)

Required Texts: “World Religions In A Thematic Perspective: With Supplementary Readings From World Scriptures”
[custom handout, purchased from the bookstore]

Learning Outcomes (From 335): Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Identify the major concepts and terminology within diverse religions including, but not limited to, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- Explain the major themes of the World’s major religions, their commonalities and divergences in written essays
- Define the meanings of religious beliefs within cultural traditions and their system of theology
- Characterize some of the major problems in the philosophy of religion
- Explain interpretations of how World Religions relate to past and current ethical, political, and economic conflicts and the promises of how interreligious dialogue may be instrumental in addressing them

Remote Learning Expectations:

According to <https://tophat.com/glossary/r/remote-learning/>, “Remote learning is where the student and the educator are not physically present in a traditional classroom environment. Information is relayed through technology.” In this class, remote learning will take place “synchronously with real-time” educator-student and student-student interaction via Zoom. Assessments will take place on-line, in the D2L system hosted at my.hacc.edu.

The primary expectations (HACC school-wide policy) for the student are that:

- students must have a strong and reliable internet connection
- web cams must be on the entire time
- students must be fully present
- student must be dressed appropriately, as if he or she were physically in the class room (e.g., no pajamas or bathrobes)

Course Schedule

Numerals immediately following the day's topic refer to page numbers in the textbook (*Religions of the World*); "Readings" refer to a handout with the full title of "Readings in Religion".

Concepts of "God"

- September 8 ----- Syllabus; 1. Shamanism and Divination (4-6)
- 15 ----- 1. Shamanism and Divination (4-6) (Continued)
2. Vedic Hinduism and the Gods (7-10)
- 22 ----- **Exercise #1 Due Sept. 23** (8:00 AM)
3. The Originating Story of Monotheistic Religions (11-14)
4. Israel and the Covenant (15-25)
- 29 ----- **Quiz #1**
5. The Qur'an and the Beginnings of Islam (26-28)
6. Christianity (29-39)
- October 6 ----- 6. Christianity (29-39) (continued)
7. Is the God of the Bible identical to "Allah"? (40-52)

13 ----- Fall Break

Society

- 20 ----- **Essay Due October 21** (8:00 AM)
8. Religion and Society in Hinduism (54-65)
9. Judaism, Purity and Sanctification (66-74)
- 27 ----- **Quiz #2**
9. Judaism, Purity and Sanctification (66-74) (continued)
10. 5 Pillars of Practice Islam (75-78)

Morality & Ethics

- November 3 ----- 11. Overview of Chinese Religion (80-82)
12. The Tao According to Taoism (83-89)
13. The Buddha (90-97)
- 10 ----- **Quiz #3**
14. Buddhist Morality (98-103)
15. Two Ways of Being Buddhist (104-109)
- 17 ----- 16. Confucianism (110-116); Christian Morality: pp. 35-37

Ritual & Worship

- 24 ----- **Exercise #2 Due Nov. 25** (8:00 AM)
Intro, presence, community, pilgrimages
- December 1 ----- Time
- 9 ----- **Ritual Report Due** (8:00 AM)
- 10 ----- **Quiz #4 Due**

Academic Policies

Attendance policy:

The Policies of the College define **Excused Absences** as an absence that occurred for reasons that were: a) beyond the student's control to prevent, and b) significant enough to reasonably prohibit attendance in class. An **Unexcused absence** is an absence that is not excused.

This instructor considers "**excused absences**" to be: (1) sickness certified by a note from a physician, health care professional, or health care institution, (2) family related situations (death in immediate family, sickness of children), and (3) documented work-related problems.

Excessive absences are when unexcused absences or the failure to participate in academic activities exceed 15% of the total class hours that will take place throughout the semester and when the absences preclude the possibility of the student attaining the stated learning outcomes for the course.

Attendance is worth **10%** of the grade. This is based upon a straight average. For example, a student who misses 4 out of 24 class dates will receive an 83% for attendance.

After the first two weeks of class, a student who comes into class **late** will be considered **absent** for the purpose of this grade. Lateness shows disrespect for the instructor (who must interrupt his teaching), fellow students (whose attention or participation is interrupted), and lack of responsibility. Students will not be allowed to show up late when they enter the world of work; they must therefore develop those habits of consistent and punctual attendance while they are in school.

Academic Dishonesty:

AP 594 defines "Academic dishonesty" as "an intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized material or fabricated information in any academic work."

Examples include "giving or receiving answers on assigned material, using materials or aids forbidden by the instructor," and "the offering of someone else's work, words, or idea as one's own or using material from another source without acknowledgement." A particular example is quoting material from a book, magazine, or web site, while failing to place the material inside quotation marks and failing to provide a proper citation.

A **minimal** penalty for plagiarism (e.g., quoting material from a web site without using quotation marks *or* proper citations) is 20 points (equivalent to two letter grades). If more than fifty percent (half) of an essay is plagiarized, that will be considered as if the entire essay is plagiarized, and will be treated in accordance with the following standard:

If the instructor determines that a student has plagiarized an essay off of an internet site, that student will receive a "0" (zero) on the essay, and will not be permitted to rewrite it.

Late Assignments:

- Written assignments are due via email at **8:00 AM** on the day following the class period the assignments would have otherwise been due. Any essays received after 8:00 am will be considered one day late.

- **Late Essays** will be penalized with a **5-point deduction per day**. Weekends will count as 1 day. E.g., if a paper is due on Wednesday (8:00 AM) is received by the instructor the following Sunday, a 85% paper would be reduced to 65% (W., Th., F., S/Su.= -20 pts.).
- The email and accompanying essay must be formatted as follows:
 - the *subject line* in the email must read as follows: “**PHIL 200-23054 Essay [number] attached**”
 - the *title* of the essay must read as follows: “[**last name**], [**first name**], **Essay [number]**”
 - Emails/essays that fail to follow the above guidelines will be refused and returned to sender for correction and resubmission.
- The following is a *partial* list of excuses that will *not* be accepted:
 - “I was sick.”
 - “I had to work last night.”
 - “My computer broke.”
 - “The printer was out of toner/paper.”
 - “There was a long line at the printer.
 - “Email didn’t work.”
 - “I thought I sent it.”
 - “I sent you a version earlier” [if the student failed to follow the above guidelines]

Drop and Withdrawal Policies

Students can drop or withdraw from a course and receive a W status any time after the refund period has ended and prior to the completion of **70% of instruction time** of the term. Deadlines are published at <http://www.hacc.edu/NewStudents/RegisterOnlineGuide/Add-Drop-Deadlines.cfm>.

This does *not* require the signature of the instructor. The student submits his or her request to withdraw from a course online *or* at the Welcome Center. The student will be dropped with a W status in 7 days from the original request.

Please note that *after* the 70% deadline has passed, the student *will* not be allowed to withdraw. Students with documented extenuating circumstances may request an exception to refund, course drop, and withdrawal deadlines by completing the Petition for Retroactive Withdrawal.

A student who is no longer attending by the Second Confirmation of Attendance (around the time of midterm grades) will automatically receive a **W**.

A student will receive a **F** under the following circumstances:

1. The instructor can document that student has engaged in academic dishonesty prior to dropping the course.
2. The student fails to submit a withdrawal request prior to the 70% deadline, is still on the roster at the end of the semester, and has not completed satisfactory work for a passing grade.

Incompletes:

Incompletes will be given only when a student cannot complete the requirements because of a serious medical or family emergency. Those requirements must be completed within 45 days of the formal end of the semester. *The student is strongly discouraged from taking an incomplete, since most students do not complete the work required, and fail the course.*

General Formatting Requirements for all Written Assignments

1. One inch margins on all sides (= “Normal” Margins on most versions of MS Word)
2. 12-pt. size font, preferably a standard “serif” font such as Times New Roman. (If you use Cambria, you can make it 11 points.)
3. All text must be double-spaced.
4. Do *not* put extra space after a paragraph.
5. Each paragraph must have first line indentation (in MS Word, this is Paragraph>Special>First Line);
6. Must *not* be formatted with fully justified margins.
7. The first page of all written assignments must be the “**Grading Grid**,” which can be downloaded at the instructor’s web site. Failure to attach this Grading Grid will result in the automatic deduction of **5** points from the percentage of the essay.

Grading Procedures

1. The student will be required to submit the following assignments:
 - a. Four **Quizzes** (Lowest grade will be dropped);
 - b. Two 2-page **Exercises** (Lowest grade will be dropped);
 - c. One “major” **Essay**;
 - d. A **Ritual Report**.
2. **Quizzes**: Currently scheduled dates are Sept. 29; Oct. 27; Nov. 10; Dec. 10. They will be taken on D2L (Brightspace). The student will be given a window that *begins* 8:00 AM the morning after class and *ends* 4:30 PM on the “scheduled date”. For example, for the Sept. 29th quiz, the window will begin 8:00 AM on Sept. 23, and end 4:30 PM on Sept. 29.
3. Each quiz will have 30 points worth of questions, primarily multiple choice, with 2-3 T/F and 1-3 short answer. Complete Study Guides are found below, pp. 8–9. **The quizzes will be open-note** (but not open-book).
4. The next three assignments—“Exercises,” “Essay,” and “Ritual Report”—are due via email [dwlayman@hacc.edu] by **8:00 AM** on the day following the class period.
5. “Exercises”
 - a. **Exercise #1**, Due Sept. 23: “Is the “god”/“spirit” experienced in the Huichol peyote ritual “real” or simply “in one’s head”?” Is there a difference between those those two states? (Can one argue that an experience “in one’s head” *is* real?) Write approximately 400 and 600 words *double-spaced* (1 ¼ – 1 ½ pages).
 - b. **Exercise #2**, Due Nov. 25: This exercise will be on the problem of “evil.” The student will reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic and answer the following questions: Is (was) the COVID-19 pandemic “evil.” (you get to define what “evil” means). **Does “evil” need to be solved?** If not, then how do we “deal” with it? If yes, then how do we solve it? The student must make use of at least **1 religion** in his or her reflections. (The religion should support the student’s answer.) Write approximately 400 and 600 words double-spaced (1 ¼ – 1 ½ pages).
 - c. Follow “General Formatting Requirements” (top of this page). Beneath the Grading Grid, put: Name; PHIL 200-23054; Exercise # <correct number>; Fall 2020
6. **Essay**: see **p. 10 for suggested questions**. The instructor will also provide (at his web site) a set of readings, including a list of library readings.

7. Ritual Report

- a. **The Student will report on the ritual practices of *one* religion.** He or she cannot report on his/her own religion (if he/she has one).
 - i. A Protestant or evangelical Christian, who wants to report on Christianity, must report on either Roman Catholicism or Eastern Orthodoxy.
 - ii. A Catholic or Orthodox Christianity who wants to report on Christianity, must report on some form of Evangelical Christianity, or “generic” Protestant.
 - iii. If the student is uncertain, then he or she should contact the instructor.
 - iv. The student is free to select a religion that we did not study in this class.
- b. This assignment is due by May 12th, 8:00 am in the instructor’s email. Use the following address: **dwlayman@hacc.edu**.
 - i. In the subject line of the email, write “200 Ritual Report”
 - ii. Your name must appear at the beginning of the title of the report, last name first: for example: “Hancock, John 200 Ritual Report F2020” (or something similar).
- c. Formats:
 - i. The report can be formatted either as an essay or a presentation.
 - ii. An essay must be a MS Word document, or saved in that format
 - iii. A presentation can be either Powerpoint or (Apple) Keynote.
- d. The student will apply the instructor’s discussion of the Five “Primary Patterns of Worship”.
 - i. In the following questions, “god or gods” refers to whatever or however the religion understands “ultimate reality” or “the sacred” to be ; e.g., in Buddhism it might be “nirvana,” or in Hinduism it might be “Brahman,” or one or more avatars of Brahman.
 - ii. Sacred presence: what does the religion you are studying do to make god or gods present?
 - iii. Sacred power: in what ways does the religion you are studying manifest the god’s or gods’ power (are their miracles? Magical objects?);
 - iv. Sacred community: how does the religion you are studying use or create community? What is the role of community in that religion (e.g., in Christianity you would discuss “the church,” both the building and the people meeting in the building)?
 - v. Sacred places: Are there places that are especially sacred for the religion you are studying? This may include places that people in that religion go on pilgrimage. It may be a specific location (e.g., Mecca), or a generic class of locations (e.g., mountains or rivers).
 - vi. Sacred time: Does the religion have particular days or a calendar (e.g., for Christians: Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter; we’ll discuss the religious calendar of Judaism).
- e. Grading
 - i. The discussion of each “pattern” is worth **16** points. This includes: factual accuracy; Detail and thoroughness; insight into “how the religion works”—what makes this practice “do that”?
 - ii. **Style** and clarity (Design in the case of presentations): **10** points.
 - iii. **Grammar**, spelling, punctuation: **10** points.
 - iv. The total points possible is **100**: (16×5)+10+10.

Final Grade Determination

The standard HACC grading scale is used for the final grade:

(90% and above = A; 80%–89% = B; 70%–79% = C; 60%–69%=D; below 60%=F).

The assignments shall be weighted as follows:

Attendance	10%
Quizzes 15% each	45% subtotal (best 3 grades out of 4)
Exercises	10% subtotal (best grade out of 2)
Essay	20%
Ritual Report	15%

Counseling Services

https://www.hacc.edu/Students/AdvisingCounseling/CounselingContacts/wellness-resources.cfm?csSearch=901943_1

EEOC/PHRC Syllabus Requirement

STUDENTS IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Student Access Services Department provides reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids and support services to students with temporary or permanent disabilities. Students in need of accommodations or who would like to know more can contact Student Access Services at this link:

<http://www.hacc.edu/Students/DisabilityServices/Contact-Disability-Services.cfm>

EEOC POLICY 005:

It is the policy of Harrisburg Area Community College, in full accordance with the law, not to discriminate in employment, student admissions, student access and/or student services on the basis of race, color, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, gender, national origin, ancestry, disability, place of birth, General Education Development Certification (GED), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, genetic history/information, or any legally protected classification. HACC recognizes its responsibility to promote the principles of equal opportunity for employment, student admissions, and student services taking active steps to recruit minorities and women.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (“PHRAct”) prohibits discrimination against prospective and current students because of race, color, sex, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, handicap or disability, record of a handicap or disability, perceived handicap or disability, relationship or association with an individual with a handicap or disability, use of a guide or support animal, and/or handling or training of support or guide animals.

The Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act (“PFEOAct”) prohibits discrimination against prospective and current students because of race, religion, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, record of a handicap or disability, perceived handicap or disability, and a relationship or association with an individual with a handicap or disability.

Information about these laws may be obtained by visiting the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission website at <http://www.phrc.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx#.V2HOujFuNS0>.

HACC—Lancaster Campus

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Study Guides for Quizzes

Quiz #1

- Animism
- Shaman
- Ecstasy
- “charismatic”
- séance
- Hallucinogen(ic)
- Huichol
- Pilgrimage (Huichol)
- Peyote
- Divination
- Brahman
- Aryans
- Vedic Hinduism
- Indra
- Varuna
- Agni
- Soma
- Purus(h)a
- Avatars
- Saktas
- Vishnu
- Shiva
- Kali/Durga/Parvati
- Rama
- Krishna (Gopala)
- Ganesh
- Puja (room)
- Israelites
- Hebrew (language/scriptures)
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- Jacob/Israel
- Eponym
- Exodus
- Moses
- Yhwh
- “the LORD God”
- religion of the Israelites
- David, Solomon
- Nature of Israelite temple
- Israel/Judah
- Babylonian Exile
- Monotheism (origins/nature)
- Ethical monotheism
- “set-apartness”
- sanctification
- **the covenant (3 “kinds”)**
- Torah
- “creation,” “evil”
- “moral justice”
- prophets

Quiz #2

- Jesus
- Kingdom of God
- The Beatitudes
- “the Son of man”
- what happened to Jesus?
- Lord
- Christ/Messiah
- Son of God
- Logos
- Incarnation
- Trinity
- **4 Hindu classes**
- Dalit
- Castes (diff. from classes)
- Karma
- Samsara
- Moksha
- Asceticism
- “Atman is Brahman”
- “(non-)dualism”
- yogi
- **3 “ways of salvation”**
- Laws of Manu
- **3 “debts”**
- **4 stages of life**
- sannyasin
- purity (concept)
- sanctification
- kashrut
- “family purity”
- halal
- halakhah
- rabbis
- Dual (written and oral) Torah
- **Tanak** (know 3 parts in English)
- “no transparency of meaning”
- The Mishnah
- Judah the Patriarch
- The Talmud, Gemara
- “Independence of Halakhic Judgment”
- “Fencing the Torah”

Quiz #3

- Islam (incl. meaning)
- Qur'an
- surah
- Muhammad
- Jibril
- Abraham in Islam
- Sunna
- Umma
- Hadith
- Shari'a
- "success" & shirk
- **Five Pillars of Islam:**
- Tawhid
- Ramadan
- Feast of Fast-Breaking
- Ihram
- Ka'bah
- Feast of Sacrifice
- Outline of reenactment of Abraham stories
- Jihad (greater/lesser)
- jizrah
- Daoism
- The "Dao"
- Dao De Jing
- Wu-nian
- Wu-wei
- The Buddha
- "4 sights"
- "the great going forth"
- Mara
- Middle Way
- **Four Noble Truths**
- nirvana
- Tathagata

Quiz #4

- (Buddhism)
- **Eightfold Path**
- Mindfulness
- **Triple Gem**
- **Ten Precepts**
- Impermanence
- Anatta
- Dependent Origination (general idea)
- Wheel of Becoming (general idea)
- **Theravada and Mahayana** Buddhism
- Self-power vs. other-power
- Arhant vs. bodhisattva
- Buddha nature
- Sunyata
- Confucius
- "the Great Way" (general idea)
- Li
- Filial piety
- Shu
- Jen
- Chun-tzu
- Christian ethics
- "Works of the flesh" vs. "fruit of the spirit"
- "in Christ"
- Agape
- Be able to summarize rituals in "pre-modern religions"
- (True) Pure Land Buddhism
- Amitabha Buddha
- Salat, basic pattern
- Muezzin
- Minaret
- wudu
- Ra'ka (concept)
- Observance Days (Buddhism)
- Eucharist
- Al-Jumu'ah
- Ganges/Benares
- "pattern of pilgrimage"
- Kumbh(a) Mela
- Stupa
- Shabbat
- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- Days of Awe
- Sukkot(h)
- Hanukkah
- Purim
- Pesah (Pesach/Passover)
- Seder
- Haggadah
- Matzah

Major Essay

Due **October 21** (8:00 AM): **Is the God of the Bible the same deity (divinity) as the “Allah” of the Qur’an?**

Here are some possible ways of answering the question:

1. **Yes.** There is one “true” God, and that God is both revealed in the Bible and in the Qur’an.
 - a. You can try to prove this *philosophically*. There is only *one God*, and religions that claim to believe in one God must believe in the *same* God.
 - b. You can try to prove this *theologically*: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have the same view of “ultimate reality,” of what “God is like.”
2. **Yes.** We cannot know if any god exists (*or*, there is no god), but the 3 religions have the same understanding of what their god is. (This is a variant of 1.b.; however, you will be questioning/doubting whether the god “really” exists.)
3. **No.** The God of the Bible is the true “one God,” and the “Allah” of the Qur’an is a parody or “counterfeit” god. You can try to prove the negative of 1.a or 1.b.
4. **No.** Only Jews have the true God; the god of the Christians and Muslims is a “fake”.
5. **No.** The divinities of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are imaginary beings anyway, and each religion “invents” a version of god that supports their understanding of reality and their authority over their believers.
6. **It is impossible to know.** The divinities of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are imaginary beings anyway, and it is impossible to know if one god is the same as another god.
7. A full bibliography, including reserve resources in the library, will be provided.
8. The essay should be **5-6 pages long**, ≈ 1750-2000 words.

Design and Formatting of Essay

1. Formatting: See “General Formatting Requirements,” p. 5 above.
 - a. In addition, in the header or footer, place your last name and the page number, separated by a tab.
 - b. On the Cover page, put the **Grading Grid**. Failure to do so will result in a 5-point deduction of the grade.
 - c. Before *or* after the Grading Grid, include your name; PHIL 200–23054; followed by “Fall, 2020”; and “Essay”.
2. Required Documentation for Essay
 - a. Some sources are direct quotes. *The student is advised against relying on extensive quotation.* An important task in any paper or essay is knowing how to restate one’s sources.
 - b. When you restate your sources, you are *paraphrasing*. Paraphrased sources must be documented just as much as direct quotes.
3. The student should use MLA format for citations: “...togerato mento examina (Layman, 111).”
 - a. If a single paragraph is paraphrased from a range of pages of some source(s), the student can summarize the sources at the end of the paragraph in the following manner: ...togerato mento examina (Layman, 111-114, 120; Fisher, 212).
4. “Works Cited”: The form for the Works Cited page is: Hopfe, Lewis M. *Religions of the World*. Thirteenth Edition. Boston: Pearson, 2016.