



Harrisburg Area Community College
Communications, Humanities, and the Arts Department
Lancaster Campus
Fall 2019 Semester (Late Start)

“Comparative Religion”

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Office Hours: 11:20 AM – 12:20 PM (TR) **Subject/CRN:** PHIL 200-23055
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM (M)
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Course Information

Meeting Time: TR 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Meeting Location: LAEAST-320

Delayed Opening Schedule

Inclement weather may require a “Delayed Opening Schedule.” If the HACC alert system announces a “Delayed Opening Schedule,” then classes will start at 10 a.m. (except for classes beginning *before 7:50 am*) and meet on a compressed schedule of 35 minutes each.

(The best way to receive alerts is through the **e2Campus** alert system. The student can sign up for this service at <https://www.hacc.edu/AboutHACC/PublicSafetyandSecurity/E2Campus-Sign-up.cfm> .)

Under this schedule, the meeting time for this class will be **2:30-3:05 p.m.**

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:

- Layman, David. “World Religions In A Thematic Perspective: With Supplementary Readings From World Scriptures” (Custom Text)

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

Course Schedule

The **topics** correspond to the headings of the textbook; the numerals in parentheses are page numbers.

CONCEPTS OF "GOD"

- Sept. 10, 12 ----- 1. Shamanism and Divination (4-6)
17, 19 ----- **Exercise #1 Due** (Sept. 17th)
2. Vedic Hinduism and the Gods (7-10)
24, 26 ----- 3. The Originating Story of Monotheistic Religions (11-14)
4. Israel and the Covenant (15-25)
- October 1 ----- **Quiz #1**; 5. The Qur'an and the Beginnings of Islam (26-28)
3, 8 ----- 6. Christianity (29-40)
7. Is the God of the Bible identical to "Allah"? (41-53)

SOCIETY

- 10 ----- 8. Religion and Society in Hinduism (55-65)
15 *Fall Break*
17 ----- 8. Religion and Society in Hinduism (55-65)
17, 22 ----- **Essay Due** October 17th
9. Judaism, Purity and Sanctification (66-75)
10. The Five Pillars of Practice of Islam (76-79)
24 ----- **Quiz #2**; Islam (continued)

MORALITY & ETHICS

- 29 ----- 11. Overview of Chinese Religion (81-83)
12. The Tao According to Taoism (84-90)
31 ----- 13. The Buddha (91-98)
- November 5, 7 ----- **Quiz #3**
14. Buddhist Morality (99-104)
15. Two Ways of Being Buddhist (105-110)
12, 14 ----- 16. Confucianism (111-116)
(Christian Morality: pp. 35-37)

RITUAL & WORSHIP

- 19, 21, 26 ----- **Exercise #2 Due** (Nov. 19th)
Intro, presence, community, pilgrimages
28----- *Thanksgiving Break*
- December 3 ----- Time
5 ----- **Quiz #4**; The Ritual/Worship Reports will be due the date the final exam would have been given: TBA

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.

Makeup Work:

Quizzes that are missed due to *excused* absences will be made up at the Test Center. The student is responsible to make reservations with the Test Center, after he/she has informed the instructor of his/her intention to make up the quiz. (See under "Attendance Policy" for definition of "Excused Absences".)

More information, including phone numbers, can be found at <http://www.hacc.edu/Students/TestCenter/Lancaster-Campus-Test-Center.cfm>. **All missed quizzes must be completed by December 5, 2019.**

Late Essays:

Late Essays will be penalized with a **5-point deduction per day**. Since the instructor is only on campus Monday evening, Tuesday and Thursday, in order to minimize the deduction, the student is advised to send the late essay *via email*. The following rules apply:

- Weekends will count as 1 day. E.g., if a paper is due on Thursday, and is turned in the following Monday, a 85% paper will be reduced to 70% (F., S/Su, M.= -15 pts.).
- The email and accompanying essay must be formatted as follows:
 - the *subject line* in the email must read as follows: “**PHIL 200-23055 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 put it in your [faculty] mailbox yesterday.”
 - “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 https://www.hacc.edu/Students/RegisterOnlineGuide/add-and-drop-deadlines.cfm?csSearch=758033_1.

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. Must use a 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. Each paragraph must have first line indentation (in MS Word, this is Paragraph>Special>First Line);
4. Must *not* be formatted with fully justified margins.
5. Do *not* enclose in a folder or holder.
6. The first page of all written assignments must be the “Rubric Summary,” which can be downloaded at the instructor’s web site. Failure to attach this Rubric Summary 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/Worship Report.
2. **Quizzes**: Currently scheduled dates are Oct. 1; Oct. 24; Nov. 5; Dec. 5. 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). The student will be allowed exactly **25 minutes** at the beginning of class to complete the quiz. (Late students will not be permitted extra time.)
3. “Exercises”
 - a. **Exercise #1**, Due Sept. 17: “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. 19: The instructor will select one current event that appears to express or embody the problem of “evil.” The student will then reflect on this event and answer the following: **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” (previous page). At the top of the page, put:
Name
PHIL 200-32567
Exercise # <correct number>
Date Due

4. **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.
5. **Ritual/Worship Report:**
 - a. The student will attend a ritual or act of worship of one of the following religions: 1. Hinduism 2. Buddhism 3. Judaism 4. Eastern Orthodox Christianity, 5. “Evangelical” Christianity 6. Islam
 - b. The student will be given a prompt customized for the religion he or she selects.
 - c. The student will visit at least one act of ritual or worship of his or her assigned religion. (Satisfactory completion of the assignment may require more than one visit, or visits to different acts of ritual.)
 - d. The report can be formatted as (1) a traditional essay; (2) a presentation (which will *not* be presented to the class)—Powerpoint or Keynote; (2) a “scrapbook”.
 - e. The report will be graded by the following rubric (for a total of **100** points):
 1. **25** points: **Factual accuracy** in the description of the religion’s ritual and/or worship practices, and of other activities of the religion, as required by the specific study guide.
 2. **25** points: **Insight into “how ritual works”** in the religion—what does it “do,” what experiences does it provide? The student needs to *analyse* the practices and explain their *function* in the religion.
 3. **20** points: **Attendance** at ritual or act of worship. Each student must demonstrate that he or she attended the act of ritual. He or she can do so by (a) the content of his or her report; (b) some photographic evidence; or (c) some material evidence—e.g., many Christian services hand out a “bulletin”. *This grade will be assigned individually.*
 4. **10** points: **Application** of the course’s discussion of “**primary patterns of ritual.**” What activities take place (some possible answers include: teaching, prayer, meditation, community meal)? Which “patterns” predominate? How are the various activities interrelated—what “ties them together”. (Students are welcome to repeat and develop lecture material, so long as they provide “added value” in terms of content and analysis.)
 5. **10** points: **Style and clarity** of writing (**Design** and graphical content in the case of presentations/scrapbooks) (**10** points);
 6. **10** points: **Grammar, spelling, and punctuation.**

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	14% each	42% subtotal (best 3 grades out of 4)
Exercises		10% subtotal (best grade out of 2)
Essay		22%
Ritual Report		16%

EEOC/PHRC Statement

STUDENTS IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with disabilities who are in need of accommodations should contact the campus disability coordinator listed below. Coordinators for each campus are listed here:

<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, and 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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RM 221D

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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 **March 12: 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. 4 above.
 - a. The essay must be **double-spaced**; do *not* add extra space between paragraphs.
 - b. In addition, in the header or footer, place your last name and the page number, separated by a tab.
2. Cover Page: The essay must have a separate cover page, to include the following information:
 - a. Name
 - b. Course Number and Section (“PHIL 200-23055”)
 - c. “Essay”; You *may*, at your discretion, include a title;
 - d. “Fall 2019”.
3. 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.
4. The student should use MLA format for citations: “...togerato mento examina (Hopfe, 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 (Hopfe, 111-114, 120; Fisher, 212).
5. “Works Cited”: The form for the Works Cited page is: Hopfe, Lewis M., Mark R. Woodward, Brett Hendrickson. *Religions of the World*. Thirteenth Edition. Boston: Pearson, 2016.