

COURSE OUTLINE PHILOSOPHY 103

SECTION I

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER: Philosophy 103

COURSE TITLE: Philosophy of Religion

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduction to some basic problems in the philosophy of religion and to major religions of the world, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK: 3

CREDIT HOURS: 3

PREREQUISITES: none

SECTION II

- A. SCOPE:** In Philosophy 103 students focus on some descriptions/explanations concerning the nature and the various elements of religion in general and investigation of the major religions of the world mentioned above in particular. Classes will include the following: presentation and explanation of various philosophical viewpoints about religion, description of the main tenets of major world religions and some philosophical reflections about them.
- B. REQUIRED WORK:** Students will be expected to distinguish between philosophy and religion, know the basic facts about the founders or origins of religions studied in class, history and development of religions explained in class and described in the textbook. Describe or explain the main tenets of the religions studied. Explain, defend and illustrate their own philosophical views about various religions or religious viewpoints without bias and with respect for diversity and the convictions of others.
- C. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Since classroom work is an important part of the course, students who are absent, tardy, or inconsistent in completing homework assignments may hinder their own progress. Students are responsible for consulting with the instructor about completing any missed work. Students with more than 4 absences may be asked to withdraw. Students may be asked to confer with the teacher during arranged conference times. In addition, teachers are available for individual consultation during scheduled office hours.
- D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:** Methods of instruction will vary according to the instructor, and may include any of the following: lecture/discussion, small group tasks, experimental/exploration, student presentations, use of computer/internet. For more detail, see class syllabus.

E. OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, AND ASSESSMENT: The following objectives and outcomes represent the department's core requirements for student achievement.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT METHODS
To demonstrate an understanding of	Student will	As measured by
1. Become acquainted with some attempts to define the vast and complex subject of religion.	a) participate fully in class; b) attend regularly and on time; c) complete individual and classroom projects; d) take responsibility for knowing, completing and, where necessary, making up assignments on time;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attendance records • class records • assignment records, including timel drafts
2. Learn about other religions	a) demonstrate an understanding of the elements of philosophy of religion; b) distinguish philosophy of religion from philosophy of God; also philosophy from theology; c) recognize some definitions, descriptions and theories of the nature of religion; d) recognize main philosophical methods of studying religion; e) identify the world's great religions and describe their main teachings; f) compare religions studied in this course; g) identify through reading and discussion some religious problems from philosophical viewpoint perspective;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written assignments • completed on time • short quizzes • tests
3. Respect the diversity of religious convictions of their brothers and sisters in all corners of the world.	a) develop critical and analytic skills and cogent opinions; b) analyze and evaluate teachings of world's greatest religions through reading; c) develop and organize their own views, in a non-offensive manner, about main points diverse religions attempt to make; d) explain above-mentioned views in a manner respecting convictions of others; e) discuss the basic elements common to all religions or religion in general and distinguish them from "overbelief" (William James) which characterizes religious differences and diversity; f) through their own examples and theories, attempt to discover ways to promote mutual understanding and respect for diverse beliefs of others;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation and presence in class • discussions • assignments • completed on time • study questions • tests

F. TEXTS AND MATERIALS: As selected by individual instructor

G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: students will use word processing for written assignments. Students will use on-line sources as appropriate for research.