



A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL** Date: **MAY 27, 2002**

B: Department/ Program Area: **HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES** New Course: | | Revision: **X**

If Revision, Section(s) Revised: **F, H, M, N, P, Q, R**

Date Last Revised: **DECEMBER 1981**

C: PHIL 170 D: PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION E: 3

Subject & Course No. Descriptive Title Semester Credits

F: Calendar Description: This course introduces students to the main philosophical ideas involved in major world religions. Some of the following topics will be considered: what religion is, the problem of evil, the nature of mysticism, various concepts of God, types of considerations for accepting spiritual reality, the relation between reason and faith, comparison of eastern and western approaches to religious existence, and an examination of sociological and psychological accounts of religious belief. Students will be encouraged to develop their own philosophical assessment of the issues covered.

G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Types of Instruction/Learning Settings

Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:

Lecture & Seminars

Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)

**Lecture: 2 hrs per week
Seminar: 2**

Number of Weeks per Semester: **14**

H: Course Prerequisites:

NONE
(Recommended: PHIL 101, PHIL 102, PHIL 103 and/or PHIL 152)

I. Course Corequisites:

NONE

J. Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:

NONE

K. Maximum Class Size:

35

L: PLEASE INDICATE:

Non-Credit

College Credit Non-Transfer

College Credit Transfer:

Requested

Granted

SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bccat.bc.ca)

M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain principal philosophical questions concerning religion.
2. Demonstrate an acquaintance with the range of answers which have been provided for these questions.
3. Compare and connect traditional and contemporary thinking on two or three of these questions.
4. Apply fundamental techniques of logical analysis and construction to these questions.

N: Course Content

At least three of A, B, C, D or E

- A. What is Religion? (e.g., Aquinas, Augustine, Robinson, Bultman, Bonhoeffer, Freud, Marx, Durkheim, Dewey, Laing).
- B. Thinking About God
 1. The Idea of God (e.g., Pascal, Kierkegaard, Tillich, Russell, Wieman, Aquinas, Boethius, Anselm, Robinson)
 2. The Meaningfulness of Religious Language (e.g., Ayer, Berlin, Flew, Alston, Aquinas, Davies)
 3. The different conceptions of God (e.g., Atman, Bhraman, and Ultimate Reality).
- C. Considerations For The Existence of God – At Least Two In Depth.
 1. Ontological Argument, (e.g. Anselm, Gaunilo, Alston, Broad, Descartes, Kant, Schaffer, Malcolm, Hartshorne)
 2. Cosmological Argument, (e.g., Aquinas, Hume, Kant, Tennant)
 3. Teleological Argument, (e.g., Hume, Mill, Broad, Smart, Tennant, James)
 4. Problem of Evil, (e.g., Leibniz, Hume, Plantinga, Moore, Tennant)
 5. Religious and Mystical Experience, (e.g., Eckhart, Stace, H. Smith, James, Broad, Russell, Castenada, Scholem, Sri, Krisna Prem, Martin, Otto, Hick).
- D. Spirituality
 1. What are the Modern Spiritual Crises? (e.g., Heschel, Doestoyevski, Bierman, Tawney, Maslow, Cox)
 2. What is the Current Spiritual Revolution? (e.g., J. Needleman, A. Graham, B. Griffiths, R. Woods, A.C.R. Skyner).
- E. One or More of the Following:
 1. Miracles and the Modern Worldview (e.g., Bultman, Hume, Holland, Broad, Swinburne)
 2. Life After Death (e.g., Plato, Quinton, Geach, Penelhum, Hume, Kant, Mctaggart, Price, Russell, Broad, Stevenson, Maritain, S.W. Sellars, Ducasse, Flew)
 3. Predestination, Divine Foreknowledge, and Human Freedom (e.g., Locke, Aristotle, Edwards, Boethius, Pike, Flew)
 4. Faith, Religion and Knowledge (e.g., Aquinas, Locke, James, Clifford, Nakhnikian, L.A. Reid, Kierkegaard, Tillich)
 5. Eastern Approaches to God and Religious Experience, Alternatives to Theism (e.g. , Suzuki, Watts, Wieman, Sri Krisna Prem, Santayana)
 6. The Meaning of Life (e.g., Tillich, Taylor, Britton, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Comte).

O: Methods of Instruction

There will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Guest speakers may be invited. Students may be asked to present seminar reports. Discussion of the issues will be encouraged throughout the course.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by StudentsSAMPLE TEXTS:

Alston, William P., ed. Religious Beliefs and Philosophical Thought. (NY: Harcourt Brace, 1965)

Rowe, William L. Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1978)

Hick, John, Philosophy of Religion. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1978)

Kessler, G., Philosophy of Religion: Towards a Global Perspective. (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1999)

Q: Means of Assessment

Evaluation will be based upon course objectives and will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outlines with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester.

Any combination of the following which equals 100%

Tests, Quizzes and Short Assignments	20 - 50%
Written Class Presentations, Essays, Essay Exams	20 - 60%
Instructor's General Evaluation	0 - 20%
(E.g., participation, attendance, homework, improvement, extra credit, group work)	

Course and Subject Number

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No - Not Open.

Course Designer(s)

Education Council/Curriculum Committee Representative

Robert Fahrkopf

Dean/Director

Registrar