



EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2004
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL** Effective Date: **SEPTEMBER 2004**

B: Department / **PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES** Revision New Course
 Program Area: **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

If Revision, Section(s) **C, H**
 Revised:
 Date of Previous Revision: **MAY 2002**
 Date of Current Revision: **APRIL 2004**

C: **PHIL 1170** 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 Type of Instruction / Learning Settings Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings: Lecture and Seminar Number of Contact Hours: (per week /semester for each descriptor) Lecture: 2 hrs. per week / semester Seminar: 2 hrs. per week / semester Number of Weeks per Semester: 15	H: Course Prerequisites: NONE Recommended: PHIL 1101, 1102, 1103 or 1152	
	I: Course Corequisites: NONE	
	J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite NONE	
	K: Maximum Class Size: 35	
L: PLEASE INDICATE: <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Credit <input type="checkbox"/> College Credit Non-Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College Credit Transfer: 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:

The course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following: 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>P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:</p> <p>Texts will be updated periodically. Typical examples are:</p> <p><u>SAMPLE TEXTS:</u></p> <p>Alston, William P., (Ed.). <u>Religious Beliefs and Philosophical Thought</u>. NY: Harcourt Brace, 1965. Rowe, William L. <u>Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction</u>. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1978. Hick, John. <u>Philosophy of Religion</u>. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1978. Kessler, G. <u>Philosophy of Religion: Towards a Global Perspective</u>. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1999.</p>						
<p>Q: Means of Assessment:</p> <p>Evaluation will be based on course objectives and will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific criteria during the first week of classes.</p> <p>An example of a possible evaluation scheme would be:</p> <p>Any combination of the following which equals 100%</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Tests, Quizzes and Short Assignments</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-bottom: 5px;">20 - 50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Written Class Presentations, Essays, Essay Exams</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-bottom: 5px;">20 - 60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Instructor’s General Evaluation (e.g., participation, attendance, homework, improvement, extra credit, group work)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-bottom: 5px;">0 - 20%</td> </tr> </table>	Tests, Quizzes and Short Assignments	20 - 50%	Written Class Presentations, Essays, Essay Exams	20 - 60%	Instructor’s General Evaluation (e.g., participation, attendance, homework, improvement, extra credit, group work)	0 - 20%
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Instructor’s General Evaluation (e.g., participation, attendance, homework, improvement, extra credit, group work)	0 - 20%					
<p>R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR</p> <p>No.</p>						

Course Designer(s): Robert Fahrnkopf

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean / Director

Registrar