

Syllabus

Comparative Religion

WR 131 - online course

3 credit hours

Fall 2010

Henry Ford Community College

Instructor: Tracy Marshall

Division: Social Science

Telephone number: (313)605-0314

Office hours: By appointment

Catalog Description: Introduces the beliefs, practices, and experiences of the major world religious traditions. In addition to examining the particulars of each faith, this course emphasizes current perspectives in religious studies that serve to clarify the nature and functions of religion as a force shaping the increasingly pluralistic modern world.

Required Text: Religions of the World, 11th edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall. Author: Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark R. Woodward (ISBN: 0-13-606177X OR 978-0-13-606177-9).

Required Supplementation: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions, Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004.

Compiled by: Mark R. Woodward (ISBN: 0-13-049522-0).

Course Objectives: During this course, students will learn about major religions of the world including Native American Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese Religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This will be accomplished by studying components common to all religions such as theology, ritual, myth, symbols, daily life, etc. within the context of each unique religion. Through the study of such components as well as history and worldview, students should be able to distinguish between and understand major religions of the world. Specifically, by the end of the semester, students should be able to speak about the ultimate reality unique to each major religion, the differences between various Western religions as well as Eastern religions, and the broad similarities amongst major religions.

Tentative Course Outline:

Please see Course Schedule in Course Materials for specific due dates, which are printed in the Schedule.

Week 1 – Overview of Religion
Week 2 – Native American Religion
Week 3 – Native American Religion
Week 4 – Hinduism
Week 5 – Hinduism
Week 6 – Buddhism
Week 7 – Buddhism
Week 8 – Judaism
Week 9 – Mid-Term Exam Due
Week 10 – Judaism
Week 11 – Christianity
Week 12 – Christianity
Week 13 – Islam
Week 14 -Islam
Week 15 – Final Exam Due

Grading System: For weekly assignments, mid-term project and a final exam, the student will be given points. The student's grade will be based on the percentage of points she/he receives out of 500 points. The breakdown is as follows:

“ Meet the Class” Discussion Board:	10 points
Weekly activities/assignments:	30 points (Total for semester - 390 points)
Mid-Term Project:	50 points
Final Exam:	50 points
Total Points for entire course:	500 points

100 % - 90% = A (range comprised of plus, straight grade and minus)
89% - 80% = B (range comprised of plus, straight grade and minus)
79% - 70% = C (range comprised of plus, straight grade and minus)
69% - 60% = D (range comprised of plus, straight grade and minus)
59% - 50% = E

Packets: Packets are readings, activities and assignments for a particular week. The student will be able to access a packet no later than each Sunday at 11:59 P.M. The packet will give details

regarding the readings required for that particular week as well as specifics of the activities and/or assignments that are due for that week. The activities and assignments from that packet will be due the following Sunday at 11:59 P.M.

Activities/Assignments: The activities and assignments will vary throughout the semester. The assignment will be some sort of writing reflecting your performance of an activity and your understanding of the subject matter of the packet. The particulars of the assignment will be expressed in each individual packet.

Late Policy: Assignments that are turned in late will result in a two point deduction per assignment. Late assignments are accepted **only** one week past their due date. However, this does not apply to the Mid-Term Project or Final Exam, which will NOT be accepted late. In other words, the late policy cannot be applied to the Mid-Term Project and Final Exam Project.

Mid-Term Project: The mid-term project will be presented to the instructor in written form. The student will choose one out of several concepts, which will be presented to students on **Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 11:59 P.M.** The concepts will require research on specific topics or be based on certain activities. This research paper will be worth up to 50 points and should be at least 800 - 1100 words in length. While no deduction will be given for not meeting this length, deductions will be given for not correctly, adequately and thoroughly discussing the subject matter. In order to correctly, adequately and thoroughly discuss the topic, papers need be in the range of 800 – 1100 words. The mid-term project will be due on **Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 11:59 P.M.** PLEASE NOTE that late mid-term projects will NOT be accepted.

Final Exam: The final exam will also be in the form of a research paper. The research topics will be available to the student on **Sunday, November 7, 2010 at 11:59 P.M.** and will be due on **Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 11:59 P.M.** The final exam paper will be worth up to 50 points. The final exam paper needs to be approximately 800 - 1100 words in length. A specific length is not required, but in order for the presented concepts to be completely answered, each should be in the range of 800 – 1100 words. PLEASE NOTE that late final exams will NOT be accepted.

Participation & Drop Policy

Students are expected to complete all weekly assignments and activities contained within this course. Penalties may be imposed, at the discretion of the individual instructor, whenever the quality of the student's work has been affected by non-participation and non-completion of course assignments and activities.

Drop Policy

For **Fall 2010 semester**, the official college policy for the last day to withdraw from courses resulting in "Drop" status is **Thursday, November 11, 2010**. Withdrawal from the course after the 10th week of the semester, specifically, **Thursday, November 11, 2010**, is rarely permitted, and can only be given with the permission of the instructor. It **only** will be granted to those who have met with unforgiving circumstances. If one chooses not to drop the course by this date, the grade that one has earned throughout the semester will be given, including those that have not participated in the course throughout the semester.

Tuition Refunds

Refunds on tuition and fees (except registration fees) may be obtained on all classes of fifteen-week duration officially dropped according to the following schedule:

100% 1st week of classes

50% 2nd week of classes

No tuition refunds are given after the end of the second week of classes and no exceptions are made for students who enter late. Courses of other than fifteen-week duration have differing refund schedules. Details may be obtained in the Office of the Registrar.

Students receiving federal financial aid have additional refund options available to them. They should review the brochure Financial Aid Information Guide and Consumer Information Supplement, available in the Financial Aid Office.

Online Conduct Policy

A. Students at HFCC are expected to show respect for order, law, the personal rights of others, and the educational mission of the College, as well as to maintain standards of personal integrity.

B. Students working online will be held to the same behavioral standards as students in traditional classrooms. Please be aware that I will be observing your threaded discussions with each other, and I will review those discussions, commenting where appropriate with the goal of helping you to better understand the course content.

Specifically, you should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Personal correspondence should be conducted elsewhere.
- Treat and respect others as you would like to be treated.
- “ Flaming” , an angry series of words or comments used to personally attack others who may disagree with you, is not permitted.

- Take time to review the tone, language, word choice, spelling, and grammar of any written correspondence prior to sending it. You will be judged by the quality of your work. Please make sure to perform a spell check of your work before submitting it.
- HFCC' s computer use policy is in effect. It can be found at <http://www2.hfcc.edu/resources/policy.htm>.
- Students are responsible for completing their own online course work.

Academic Dishonesty (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!!)

Policy on Academic Dishonesty (Cheating)

Henry Ford Community College considers academic dishonesty to be a serious offense. It is the policy of the College that determination of and appropriate action in respect to academic dishonesty by a student shall be a matter of individual judgment by the instructor. The instructor may administer a penalty up to and including failure in the particular course. It is the professional obligation of the faculty to enforce academic integrity in their courses.

Academic dishonesty is any activity intended to improve a student' s grade fraudulently.* It includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Unauthorized acquisition of tests or alteration of grades (such as the stealing of tests, test keys, or grade books from faculty offices or elsewhere, or the purchasing of tests or grade books);
2. Unauthorized use of notes, books, or other prohibited materials during an examination;
3. Open cheating on an examination (such as copying from another student' s paper);
4. Permitting another person to take a test in the student' s place or receiving unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
5. Providing unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
6. Revision of graded work in an attempt to receive additional credit fraudulently;
7. Plagiarism (using another person' s work without acknowledgment);
8. Any other conduct intended to obtain academic credit fraudulently or dishonestly. If an instructor fails a student in a course for academic dishonesty, the instructor must immediately notify in writing the student and the registrar of the infraction, retaining copies of both notifications.

The registrar maintains a record of all such violations. If a student fails two classes as a result of academic dishonesty, he or she is dismissed from the College for two academic years. In addition, a notation of the reason for academic dismissal is placed on the student's transcript. The notation may be expunged at the discretion of the appropriate vice president if the student petitions for its removal after at least two years have elapsed since the disciplinary action. If a student believes that the accusation is false, he or she may appeal through the Student Complaint Procedure. If the appeal reaches the Student Complaint Board, the Board may consider only whether the charge is justified. The Board may not set aside or change the penalty given by the instructor unless the charge of academic dishonesty is set aside.

*Any action that violates the Student Conduct Policy and Due Process Procedure is also subject to review under that policy.

PLEASE NOTE that the policy for this class is that any academic dishonesty of any form will result in zero credit for the course. That means that **a student will receive an "E"** as a grade for this course if he/she engages in academic dishonesty. **Please avoid plagiarism**, or copying of any other body of work, including author's, website's, or other students' work or words, without providing the proper citation or listing from where the work came. If you quote another, you must list the source of that quotation, whether it is from a book, website, magazine, newspaper article, audio tape, video or any other work. If you do not, this is considered plagiarism and is grounds for dismissal, with an " E" in the course. In other words, if you commit plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, you will receive an " E" for a grade in the course, and will be removed from the course, which will be placed on record with the College. This policy is enforced without exception. If you do not understand the concept of plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, please bring this to my attention immediately.

Student Support Services

Instructional Technology

If you require assistance accessing UCompass Educator courses, please contact Instructional Technology at 313.845.9663, ext. 3, 4, or 5 or via e-mail at signorelli@hfcc.edu, kolin@hfcc.edu, or vbeaty@hfcc.edu. On-campus assistance is also available in Instructional Technology, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Instructional Technology is located on the lower level of the Learning Technology Center (same building as Campus Safety), room A-004.

Media Center

Located on the second floor of the Library, the Media Center is an open access computer lab where students can go to work on computer assignments, access the internet, and/or check their e-mail. For more information, you may contact the Media Center at 313.845.6386. For more information regarding Library Services, you may phone 313.845.9606.

Assisted Learning Services

The Assisted Learning Services Program is designed to assist physically challenged, learning disabled, or academically disadvantaged students at Henry Ford Community College to overcome barriers to education through supportive services. In addition, the Assisted Learning Services Department also provides tutoring services to the general student population. Assisted Learning Services is located in the LRC (Learning Resources Center), north side (parking lot side) main level. For more information, you may contact the office at 313.845.9617 or for the hearing impaired 313.845.9804.

Learning Lab

Located on the second floor of the Learning Resource Center, the Learning Lab assists HFCC students with identifying and improving the skills needed for success in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Math.

Although operation hours may slightly vary each semester, generally, the Learning Lab is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. – 8:40 p.m., on Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9:40 a.m. – 1:40 p.m. For more information, contact the Learning Lab at 313.845.9643.