Huntingdon College
School of Business and Professional Studies

COURSE NUMBER: REL 233
COURSE NAME: World Religions
Fall 2015, Session II – Lawson
Wednesday, 10/7, 14, 21, 28, 11/4 from 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John Brannon

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the history, traditions and beliefs of the world’s major religions and to how these traditions interact with each other and affect life in America. Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese (Confucianism and Daoism), and Yoruba Religions will be examined.

PREREQUISITE: none


COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
• To understand and articulate the basic elements of eight of the world’s largest religions
• To understand and articulate the significance of religion in today’s world both culturally and politically
• To understand and articulate the main goal of the world’s religions
• Develop a vocabulary for the world’s religions
• Describe the basic elements of the world’s religions

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA: The following items are required for the course:
1. Four Exams given on week two, three, four and a final exam. The exams are multiple choices and cover only the material from the class and the main text preceding the exam.
   - Week two exam (first exam) – covers lecture material from week one, and the introduction, and chapters 1 and 2 in the text.
   - Week three exam (second exam) – covers lecture material from week two, and chapters three and four in the text
   - Week four exam (third exam) – covers lecture material from week three and chapters five and six in the text
   - Week five exam (fourth exam) covers lecture material from week four and chapters seven and eight in the text.
2. Critical Essay that interacts with the main theme of the textbook is God One? Or a research project that focuses on what one of the eight religions that we have studied teaches about how followers of that tradition should interact with other religious traditions
Grading Elements | Percentage:
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Exam: | 80% (each exam 20%)
Research Project: | 20%
Total Points | 100%

GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS - Describe the point range for each letter grade.
- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59-below

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Absences and Tardiness – All students are required to attend the first session. Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an “F” for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.

Participation – Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

Late Assignments – Explain whether late assignments will be accepted and what penalty might be imposed if the assignment is late. Also specify what assignments can be turned in late. This will allow the student to make informed decisions.

Accommodation of Special Needs - Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik Dorman, will notify your professor(s) of the committee’s decision. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodation or need to request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4577 or e-mail at disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu.

Academic Honesty – Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas which are not your own creation is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent
with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

Huntingdon College Library: As an EB student you have access to the full-range of electronic resources provided by the Library of Huntingdon College. Your first step upon enrollment at Huntingdon should be to register for a library account. You can do this by going to the Library’s web site at http://library.huntingdon.edu/ and under “EB Services” complete the “Library Card Application” form and submit it. You will receive shortly your personal library account information, which will then allow you to access a variety of resources including databases. Should you ever have a problem accessing the Library’ electronic resources, please contact the Library (specifically, Systems Librarian Brenda Kerwin at bkerwin@huntingdon.edu).

* Among the Library’s electronic resources, you will find a number of databases specific to the area of business administration and its allied fields of study (e.g. databases within /EbscoHost/, /Gale/, and /ProQuest/, as well as /Oxford Journals/). You will also find databases that support your core courses in such fields as English, history, communications, the arts, and the sciences. You may be familiar with the AVL (the /Alabama Virtual Library/) and have your own AVL card. As a student at Huntingdon College, you no longer need to maintain your own AVL card, if you access the AVL through our web site. Simply click on “Campus &Library” rather than “Home Access” within the AVL. A few other mentions: /Countess/ is the name of the Library’s online catalogue and among its holdings you will find electronic books. If you want to know what full-text electronic journals are available to you through the Library’s databases, you can use the /Serials Solutions/ link on our web site. You can limit your search by discipline (such as “Business & Economic”). If you use Google for any of your research, we greatly encourage you to use /Google Scholar/ and /Google Books/. These features of Google will direct you to resources appropriate for academic research.*


**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**Week One** –Defining Religion, Examining the basic numbers of world religions, examining the issues of are religions similar, and exploring Islam and Christianity

**Reading Assignment**
God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run The World And Why Their Differences Matter, by Stephen Prothero, Chapters one and two

**Week Two** EXAM and then Confucianism and Hinduism

**Reading Assignment**
God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run The World And Why Their Differences Matter, by Stephen Prothero, Chapters 3 and 4
Week Three EXAM and then Buddhism and Yoruba

Reading Assignment
God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run The World And Why Their Differences Matter, by Stephen Prothero, Chapters 5 and 6

Week Four EXAM and then Judaism and Daoism

Reading Assignment
God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run The World And Why Their Differences Matter, by Stephen Prothero, Chapters 7 and 8

Week Five EXAM and then Atheism and Political Impact of World Religions in the American Culture

Reading Assignment
God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run The World And Why Their Differences Matter, by Stephen Prothero, Chapter 9 and Conclusion

Writing Assignment – Due last