

## **PHIL 21020: Comparative Religious Thought 1**

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Office hours: Bowman Hall 320 D. MW: 3:40-4:40. TR 2:00-3:30.

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to become aware of the different religious sensibilities of seven major world religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Daoism and Confucianism. We will do this through reading the original texts of and commentary on these religions. We start the course from what I deem to be the most unfamiliar and foreign of the seven religions (Confucianism) and work our way back to what I regard as the most familiar (Christianity) in order to view the familiar in a different light in addition to becoming more closer with the foreign. During this process the diverse religious traditions will be compared with one another at relevant points. More time will be spent on the Asian (Chinese and Indian) religions assuming that their ideas are not familiar to many in the West.

### **Requirements**

1. Attend class and take lecture notes.
2. Read the assigned readings.
3. Take three tests and write one final paper. Each test will constitute 20% of the grades (in sum 60%). The final paper (due on finals week) will constitute 30% of the grades. Study guides for the tests and a writing guide for the paper will be provided during the semester.
4. The last 10% of the grades will be determined by attendance and participation. 5 or more unjustified absences will result in an additional deduction of points at the instructor's discretion.
5. Minus credit activity: Any form of activity that is not related to class that includes but is not limited to the following: Chatting with others. Reading newspapers. Sleeping. Text messaging. Viewing the internet on laptop. Doing homework for other classes. Listening to music etc. Also, any form of disrespect or rudeness toward other students or the instructor. If caught doing any of the above, extra points will be deducted at the instructor's discretion.

## **Texts (Required)**

*Focusing the Familiar.* Ames and Hall.

*The World's Religions.* Huston Smith.

*Chuang Tzu.* Trans. by Burton Watson.

Additional reading material will be emailed to you throughout the semester, so please check your email regularly.

## **Grievance Procedure**

The Philosophy Department Grievance Procedure is in conformity with the Student Academic Complaint Policy and Procedures set down as University Policy 3342-4-16 in the University Policy Register. For information concerning the details of the grievance procedure, please see the Departmental Chairperson.

## **Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with the University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in the Michael Schwartz Student Service Center (672-3391).