

PHIL 131

Introduction to World Religions

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

PHIL 131 – Introduction to World Religions: Develops a rational approach to the nature and purpose of religion and its historical expression. Covers the nature of experience, faith, revelation, religious symbolism, and immortality provides a comparative survey of doctrines and practices of representative religions such as Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shintoism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

Pre-requisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how a system of ethics has been established and utilized by major religions;
2. Define the ways in which various world religions have established a method of understanding the passages of human life;
3. Explain some of the similarities and dissimilarities among the world's religions and an ability to articulate these differences;
4. Define the way in which various world religions verify knowledge;
5. Explain the meaning and purpose of vital religious myths;
6. Explain the meaning and purpose of various religious rites and rituals;
7. Analyze the methods by which major world religions establish a relevant world view;
8. Identify the core similarities of at least six world religions;
9. Identify the core differences of at least six world religions;
10. Compare traditional religious world view with a contemporary secular world view; and
11. Explain how various world religions establish a theory of human nature.

Major Topics

- I. Defining Religion
- II. Spiritual and non-spiritual world views
- III. Myths
- IV. Rites, rituals, and worship
- V. Religious meaning and significance
- VI. The value and purpose of religion

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Grades will be determined by a weighted average of the following course assignments

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- Chapter presentation – 20%
- Midterm exam – 30%
- Class participation – 10%
- Final project – 40%

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in growth in knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending classes, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities, and preparing for class.

We take seriously our responsibility to maintain high-quality programs and will periodically ask you to participate in assessment activities to determine whether our students are attaining the knowledge, attitudes, and skills appropriate to various courses and programs. The assessment activities may take many different forms such as surveys, standardized or faculty-developed tests, discussion groups or portfolio evaluations. We ask that you take these activities seriously so that we can obtain valid data to use for the continuous improvement of CCBC's courses and programs.

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