



Cincinnati Christian University

PHIL 220 – World Religions (3 Semester Credit Hours)

Clifton Bailey

Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Biblical Studies

Email: clif.bailey@ccuniversity.edu

Phone: 513-680-8153

Early Week I: Spring 2019

Office: Presidents Hall Room 258

Course Syllabus

DESCRIPTION: An introductory study in the beliefs and practices of the major non-Christian religions.

OBJECTIVES: The student will...

- Create a working definition of “religion” for both ancient and modern manifestations
- Examine your own theological perspective on why many religions exist, and why you view them as you do. Compare your theological perspective with other theological perspectives and determine if you need to make any adjustments.
- Using a comparative religion approach, recognize and explore common elements manifested in religions (the phenomena of religions).
- Begin to understand why people of a particular religion choose to stay within that religion, even if it was originally the choice of society or their parents for them to be part of it.
- Gain a preliminary understanding of individual major religions of the world today.
- Focus on one religion and study it more in depth, and determine how you might make your faith understandable to another person in their religious context.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Hesse, Hermann, Siddhartha, Bantam Publishing, 1982.
ISBN – 978-0553208849
ISBN – 978-0310522966
2. Aslan, Reza, No god but God, Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2006.
ISBN – 978-0812982442
3. Martel, Life of Pi, Harvest Books, 2001.
ISBN – 978-0156027328

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance – Absences are strongly discouraged. Excessive absences will result in the lowering of the student's grade.
2. Take notes on all class lectures and participate in classroom discussions and activities.
3. **Free Writes** – At the beginning of each class and immediately following lunch, a question will be presented on the board. The student is to answer and expound upon that topic or question on a piece of notebook paper. The student is allotted ten minutes to write and must write the entire ten minutes. These take place every class and those free writes that the student misses cannot be made up, unless the student has a doctor's note or missed due to a school-related event. The student may be asked to present what he or she wrote to the class and will serve as a discussion-starter. These are 1 percentage point apiece and in order to receive the full point, the student must write for the entire 10 minutes and must show a reasonable attempt to answer the question or expound on the topic. There are 10 free writes in all and each are worth 1 percentage point, 10% collectively.
4. **Book Responses** – The book responses will be taken from three books: Siddhartha, No god but God, and Life of Pi. These responses are to be 4-6 pages in length. 2-3 pages of the paper should be a summary of the reading. At the top of each summary page, the student is to formulate a thesis statement concerning the main point of the reading. These theses are to be no less than 15 words and no more than 23. The thesis is to be in **bold** and underlined, and is to be separate from the body of the paper. The summary itself is to support the thesis statement. The second 2-3 pages should be the student's own personal response. The personal response section should answer the following three questions: 1. How does this reading influence your perception of the religion(s) covered? 2. What concepts or events from the reading particularly moved you and why? 3. How can Christians better dialogue with the religion or perspectives presented in the book? There are to be 4 book responses in all, they are worth 20% a piece – 60% collectively.
5. **Presentation** – On the first day of class, the professor will divide the class into groups. Those groups will be given a religion that will not be discussed in class and the students are expected to give a 15-20 minute presentation on that religion on the last day of the week. The presentations must include the origins of that faith and that faith's perspectives on god, metaphysics (spirituality/afterlife), morality, community, and worship. Some time will be granted to work in groups on this presentation during class. This presentation is worth 10% of the final grade.
6. **Field Report** – At some point during the semester, the student is to visit a place of worship that is not Christian (the student does not have to attend a service) and interview someone of that faith. Based upon both the interview and the experience, the student is to write a 5-7 page paper that describes the general lifeway of that religion. The student is to write a collection of questions to be asked during the interview that deal with five distinct areas of faith: morality, metaphysics (spirituality/afterlife), god, worship, and community. Be sure to take from the aesthetic experience as well: i.e. architecture, symbols, décor, art, music, etc. It is from both the experience and the interview that the student is to compose this paper. Be sure to cite the interview with the name of the person interviewed, the date, time, place, etc. This paper is worth 20% of the final grade.

*All papers are to be double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt. font, standard margins.

GRADING PROCEDURE: Letter grades will be determined in accordance with the percentages

listed in the college catalog. Individual grades will be based on the following criteria:

a.	Free Writes	10%
b.	Book Responses (3)	60%
d.	Presentation	10%
e.	Field Report	20%

ACADEMIC & DISABILITY SERVICES:

The Evan Bolejack Learning Center: Students in need of academic coaching or tutoring should contact the learning center at learning.center@ccuniversity.edu to schedule an appointment. All services are free to current students.

Accommodations: Students who require academic accommodations due to a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability may request assistance from the Student Services Department. Students are encouraged to complete this process within the first two weeks of the semester. The Student Services Department is located on the upper level of Presidents Hall. You may also contact the office by phone at 244-8150.

Schedule

Monday:

9:00-10:00 - Syllabus

10:00-10:45 – Free Write #1

10:45-11:45 – Introduction

11:45-12:45 – Lunch

12:45-1:15 – Free Write #2

1:15-3:00 – Hinduism

3:00-4:30 – Group Time

Tuesday:

8:30-9:30 – Free Write #3

9:30-11:45 – Buddhism & Confucius

11:45-12:45 – Lunch

12:45-1:15 – Free Write #4

1:15-3:00 – Taoism & Judaism

3:00-4:30 – Group Time

Wednesday:

8:30-9:30 – Free Write #5

9:30-11:45 – Islam as Faith

11:45-12:45 – Lunch

12:45-1:15 – Free Write #6

1:15-3:00 – Islam Politicized

3:00-4:30 – Group Time

Thursday:

8:30-9:30 – Free Write #7
9:30-11:45 – Group Time
11:45-12:45 – Lunch
12:45-5:00 – Group Presentations Part I & Free Write #8

Friday:
8:30-11:45 Group Presentations Part II & Free Write #9

Important Dates

Friday, January 18th:

Siddhartha book response due. Required reading: ALL

Friday, February 1st:

No god but God book response due. Required reading: Ch. 1-5

Friday, February 15th:

Life of Pi book response due. Required reading: Ch. 1-28

Friday, April 27th:

Field Report due via canvas.

*All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the evening they are due.