Instructor Information

Instructor: Edward Hale, Ph.D.
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*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days.

Chair: Barry McVinney 501-812-2383 bmcvinney@uaptc.edu
Dean: Christy Oberste 501-812-2869 coberste@uaptc.edu

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.

Course Information

The course is divided into 5 sections; the first is two and a half weeks long, and the rest are 2 weeks long. In the first four sections you will be asked to read a portion of the textbook, initiate 2 class discussions, respond to 4 discussions initiated by other students, and take an exam. The last section will have one extra credit discussion and allow time for you to write your term paper. There will also be a final exam.

Catalogue Description, Prerequisites and Overview

“The course introduces students to the [academic] study of great world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity and others—by examining their history, beliefs, moral teachings, rituals and practices. It examines the global patterns of contemporary world religions as symbol systems and expressions of discrete, coherent worldviews. The course combines lecture and discussion. (3 credit hours).”

Students must have passed DEVE 0316 (College Reading) with a grade of C or better or be Comp I ready in order to enroll in this course.

Course Materials

Required textbook:
*A Concise Introduction to World Religions, 3rd edition, edited by Willard Oxtoby, Roy C. Amore,
Amir Hussain, Alan F. Segal.

Mission Statement

University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cultural Awareness
4. Information Literacy
5. Professionalism
6. Quantitative Literacy
7. Technological Literacy

For more information please consult the following website: https://uaptc.edu/sla

Department/Program Learning Outcomes

The Philosophy and Humanities Department, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting:

1. Critical and creative thought
2. Effective argumentation with a focus on tone, purpose and audience
3. Academic Integrity
4. Independent thinking and learning
5. Written communication on a collegiate level
6. Exposure to various cultures and subcultures
7. The influence of culture on individuals and their work
8. Collaborative study and writing
9. The importance of community/civic involvement

Course Outcomes

In line with the above we have six objectives in this course. By the end of the term the student should be able to:

- Distinguish between the academic study of religion and the confessional-apologetic study of religion.
• Explore some of the central categories that scholars use to organize the data and phenomena of the world’s religions (e.g. myth, ritual, experience, social institutions, ethics, doctrine, magic, etc.).
• Draw relationships between these central categories within a given religious tradition in order to demonstrate their inter-connectedness (e.g. how are myth and ritual related to one another?).
• Identify the meaning of concepts and practices central to each world religion (e.g. atman, taboo, shari’ah, bris, Eucharist, etc.).
• Accurately describe the causes for and the ways in which religious traditions have evolved historically (e.g. the transition from Levitical Judaism to Rabbinic Judaism or the causes and characteristics of the Protestant Reformation).
• Recognize the way religion may determine or influence aspects of one’s personal and social identity (in terms of gender, race, economic class, ethnicity, etc.).

Policies

Report a Complaint or Concern

UA_PTC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint

UA-PTC Attendance Policy

Education at UA-PTC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

Course Policies

The UA-PTC Catalogue rules and regulations will be enforced in this class at all times. Please consult the following website for more information: https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected.

Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications, including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations. Comments entered into the online discussions are to be polite and respectful of other students. You should also proofread your entries. Entries with several
spelling and grammatical errors or several typos are difficult for your classmates to read.

**Grading Policy**

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

- 90-100% A
- 80-89% B
- 70-79% C
- 60-69% D
- 0-59% F

Graded assignments will be as follows:

- 4 exams, 50 points each (the lowest grade will be dropped) – 150 points
- 1 final exam (cannot be dropped) – 100 points
- 1 term paper, 1500 words (about 5 pages) – 100 points
  (Term paper topic: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “All religions are just different paths to the same goal”. You can agree or disagree, but give your reasons.)
- 8 online discussions (plus a ninth one for extra credit) – 80 points

If you miss one of the 4 exams that will be the exam grade that gets dropped, so there will be no makeup exam.

**Academic Integrity**

It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalogue states “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.” The catalogue also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violation of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.” The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s work without acknowledging them. It is a form of dishonesty and can result in serious consequences, such as failing a course. Any time you use someone else’s words in a paper you write those word must be in quotation marks and a reference must be given for where you found them. Using a paraphrase of someone else’s words – writing the same thing they did but with slightly different wording – is also plagiarism unless you give a reference to their work. (But in this case quotation marks are not used.)

**Accommodation Policy**

Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of
1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide recent current and relevant documentation.

Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student’s responsibility to provide their Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, address the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog.
http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2

Sexual Misconduct

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership
Campus Center Building Room 216
501-812-2756
manderson@uaptc.edu

Course Evaluations

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

Information Literacy

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information,
then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.

Tentative Course Schedule

Please note that we will not be reading the chapters in the book in the order they appear in the book.

Section 1
Jan. 9: Begin reading Chapters 1, 2, and 6 (pp. 2-89, 280-341). Acknowledge acceptance of the Course Syllabus and introduce yourself in the “Before You Begin” section in the Course Content.
Jan. 12: Discussion 1 due. (Finish reading at least Chapter 1 before this posting. You must post your discussion before 11:59 pm on this date to get full credit.)
Jan. 16: Responses to Discussion 1 due. (You must post responses to discussions begun by 2 other students by 11:59 pm on this date to get full credit.)
Jan. 19: Discussion 2 due. (Finish reading at least Chapter 2 before this posting.)
Jan. 23: Responses to Discussion 2 due.
Jan. 26: Discussion 3 due. (Finish reading Chapters 1, 2, and 6 before this posting.)
Jan. 30: Response to Discussion 3 due.
Feb. 1 or 2: Exam 1. (The exam will be online to take on either day.)

Section 2
Feb. 3: Begin reading Chapters 7, 8, and 9 (pp. 342-477). (Finish them before posting Discussion 5.)
Feb. 9: Discussion 4 due.
Feb. 13: Responses to Discussion 4 due.
Feb. 16: Discussion 5 due.
Feb. 20: Responses to Discussion 5 due.
Feb. 22 or 23: Exam 2.

Section 3
Feb. 24: Begin reading Chapters 10, 11, and 3 (pp. 478-577 and 90-151). (Finish before posting Discussion 7.)
Mar. 2: Discussion 6 due.
Mar. 6: Responses to Discussion 6 due.
Mar. 9: Discussion 7 due.
Mar. 13: Responses to Discussion 7 due.
Mar. 15 or 16: Exam 3.
Mar. 17-23: Spring Break

Section 4
Mar. 24: Begin reading Chapters 4 and 5 (pp. 152-289). (Finish before posting
Discussion 9.)
Mar. 30: Discussion 8 due.
Apr. 3: Responses to Discussion 8 due.
Apr. 6: Discussion 9 due.
Apr. 10: Responses to Discussion 9 due.
Apr. 12 or 13: **Exam 4.**

**Section 5**
Apr. 14: Concentrate on getting your term paper ready.  (Optional: Read Chapter 12, pp. 578-615)
Apr. 20: Discussion 10 due.  (Extra credit)
Apr. 24: Responses to Discussion 10 due.  (Extra credit)
Apr. 27: **Term Paper due.**

**Final on May 3 or 4.**

Disclaimer: his schedule is a guide for the semester.  The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.