I. Instructor Information

Name: Edward Hale, Ph.D.
Email: ehale@pulaskitech.edu

II. 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.

The course is divided into 5 three week sections. 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.

III. Course Resources

Required textbook:
World Religions Today, by John Esposito, Darrell Fasching, and Todd Lewis, fifth edition

IV. Institutional Learning Outcomes

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:
http://www.pulaskitech.edu/sla/mission.asp

V. 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

VI. 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.).

VII. Attendance Policy

Agencies granting financial assistance may be notified of the violation of the attendance policy by students receiving financial aid.
Attendance is taken starting the first day of the semester, with the exception of students who enroll after classes have started. Teachers have the right to count students as absent if they arrive late to class, leave class early, or go in and out of the classroom during class time. Teachers have the right to lower a student’s grade based on excessive absences.

Any student who misses two consecutive weeks of class may be administratively withdrawn from the class.

Any student who does not attend class within the first two weeks of class will be considered a “no show” according to the campus attendance policy and will be reported as such and dropped from the class.

For our online class participation in the online discussions will be counted as class attendance.

VIII. Classroom Policies

The PTC Catalogue rules and regulations will be enforced in this class at all times. Please consult the following website for more information:
http://www.pulaskitech.edu/admission/web_catalog/

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.

IX. Grading

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.

The course grade will depend on your percentage of the total points possible on the following scale:

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

It is expected that all students who attend PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The 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 can be found in the PTC code of conduct.

XI. Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Coordinator of Disability Services in Counseling Services (501-812-2220 or www.pulaskitech.edu) prior to the semester of planned enrollment, and must provide recent documentation of medical, educational, and/or psychological records.

Students who need accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Accommodations will only be provided if the instructor receives a letter of approved accommodations from the Coordinator of Disability Services. Failure to provide sufficient notification may result in a delay of services.

XII. 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 PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Dean of Students
Campus Center Building Room 212
501-812-2756
manderson@pulaskitech.edu

Additional information, including the PTC sexual assault policy, procedures, and resources may be found online at http://www.pulaskitech.edu/sexual_misconduct_awareness/.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Information Literacy

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.

XV. Course Schedule

Section 1
Jan. 16: Begin reading Chapters 1-3 (pp. 3-145). (Finish the reading before posting Discussion 2.)
Jan. 20: Discussion 1 due. (You must post your first discussion before 11:59 pm on this date to get full credit.)
Jan. 24: 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. 27: Discussion 2 due.
Jan. 31: Responses to discussion 2 due.
Feb. 2 or 3: **Exam 1.** (The exam will be online to take on either day.)

Section 2
Feb. 4: Begin reading Chapters 4 and 5 (pp. 147-305). (Finish them before posting Discussion 4.)
Feb. 10: Discussion 3 due.
Feb. 14: Responses to Discussion 3 due.
Feb. 17: Discussion 4 due.
Feb. 21: Responses to Discussion 4 due.
Feb. 23 or 24: **Exam 2.**

Section 3
Feb. 25: Begin reading Chapters 6 and 7 (pp. 307-485). (Finish before posting Discussion 6.)
Mar. 3: Discussion 5 due.
Mar. 7: Responses to Discussion 5 due.
Mar. 10: Discussion 6 due.
Mar. 14: Responses to Discussion 6 due.
Mar. 16 or 17: **Exam 3.**
Mar. 18-25: Spring Break
Section 4
Mar. 26: Begin reading Chapters 8 and 9 (pp. 487-618). (Finish before posting Discussion 8.)
Mar. 31: Discussion 7 due.
Apr. 4: Responses to Discussion 7 due.
Apr. 7: Discussion 8 due.
Apr. 11: Responses to Discussion 8 due.
Apr. 13 or 14: Exam 4.

Section 5
Apr. 15: Concentrate on getting your term paper ready.
Apr. 21: Discussion 9 due. (Extra credit)
Apr. 25: Responses to Discussion 9 due. (Extra credit)
May 4: Term Paper due.

Final on May 8 or 9.

XVI. Course Agreement Form

I have read the course syllabus for Dr. Edward Hale’s World Religions class at University of Arkansas: Pulaski Technical college Spring Semester, 2018, and I understand its content. I also understand the rules for the class, and I will follow and abide by these rules, including those relating to attendance, assignments, grading criteria, plagiarism, and behavior. (Please acknowledge your acceptance of this in the discussion list in the “Before You Begin” section of the Course Content.)