

PHIL-137: COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

Justification for this inactivation request

Course not offered in 3 years.

Effective Term

Fall 2025

CC Approval

11/01/2024

AS Approval

11/14/2024

BOT Approval

11/21/2024

COCI Approval

03/13/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Philosophy (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

PHIL - Philosophy

Course Number

137

Department

Philosophy

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Comparative Religions

Short Title

Comparative Religions

CB03 TOP Code

1509.00 - Philosophy

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

Comparative Religions offers a philosophical survey of the world's major religions, thereby providing a trenchant knowledge of avenues to spiritual growth, multicultural values and critical thinking skills.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00000

Lecture Hours

54

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Identify and evaluate the various methodological approaches to understanding any given religious system.
2.	Apply each methodological approach to any given religions system, logically assessing the efficacy of beliefs and conduct found within the system given the cultural milieu of its provenance and ensuing history.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Demonstrate an understanding of various religions through their teachings and practices.
2.	Distinguish and assess philosophical theories regarding the origin of religious beliefs.
3.	Logically appraise the various religions and their adherents, thereby gaining respect for divergent viewpoints.

4. Consider, weigh and critically assess her/his own personal faith.
5. Demonstrate improved citizenship through understanding the value and contributions of religious plurality in America.
6. Logically criticize religious prejudices, fear, hatred and discrimination.
7. Define "religious person."
8. Compare and evaluate religions alien to her/him by participating in an institutional form of worship different from her/his own.
9. summarize and critically compare and assess the various extant philosophical theories on the origin and meaning of religions;
10. critically evaluate the place and function of religion in the contemporary world;
11. Engage in meaningful dialogue with persons of other faiths with the goal of revising her/his own personal beliefs based on logical analysis.
12. Acquire and apply tools for self-evaluation.

Course Content

1. Contemporary and etymological definition of "religion"
 - a. Descriptive, not prescriptive approach
2. Philosophical Methodology for Studying Religion
 - a. Phenomenological
 - b. Existential
 - c. Historical
 - d. Critical Philosophy
3. Theories of the Origin of Religions
 - a. Animistic
 - b. Nature-worship
 - c. Theory of Original Monotheism
 - d. Magic Theory
 - e. Feuerbach and Freud's Wish Fulfillment Theory
 - f. Spiritus Mundi Theory
4. Types of Religions
 - a. Basic or Ancient - African, Native American, Druids
 - b. Religions Originating in India
 - c. Religions Originating in China and Japan
 - d. Religions Originating in the Middle East
5. Brief Chronology
 - a. Paleolithic Hunting Religions
 - b. Neolithic Agricultural Religions
 - c. Ancient Empires - Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China
 - d. Religions Respond to History
 - i. Epics, Rituals and Religious Founders.
 - e. Medieval Devotion
 - f. Modernity
6. Goddess Worship
 - a. IDEA - Goddess within
 - b. Shekina, Mari, Ishtar, Shin-Mu, Isis, Morgana Le Fay, Virgin Mary, et al
 - c. Androgyny of the avatars
7. Ancient Myths of Resurrection
 - a. Tammuz, Lord of the Shepherd Seat (c. 4,000 BCE)
 - b. Osiris (c. 3,000 - 2,000 BCE)
 - c. Adonis (c. 1400 - 1200 BCE)
 - d. Attis (c. 1400 - 1000 BCE)
 - e. Christ (c. 3 or 4 CE)
 - f. And many more...
8. Ancient Rituals and Contemporary Vestiges
 - a. Taking on the physical characteristics of the ones perceived as powerful, mysterious
 - b. Donning the clothes of the "powerful" ones
 - c. Taking on the name of the "powerful" ones
9. The Problems of Fundamentalism

- a. Psychological insecurities
- b. Intellectual vacuity
- 10. History, Development, Philosophy, Beliefs, Ri tu als, Sacred Writings of Specific Wisdom Faiths (Religions) of the World
 - a. Hinduism
 - b. Jainism
 - c. Buddhism
 - d. Sikhism
 - e. Zen
 - f. Taoism
 - g. Zoroastrianism
 - h. Judaism
 - i. Christianity
 - j. Islam

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Films, podcasts, music.
Critique	Instructor will offer spontaneous oral critiques of student comments during class discussions as well as written critiques of assigned essays.
Discussion	Class discussion will be conducted intermittently at appropriate intervals during the lecture presentations.
Lecture	Lectures corresponding to the course outline will be given each class session.

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	
Directed Study	
Discussion	
Group Work	
Individualized Instruction	
Journal	
Lecture	

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Multiple choice unit exams and final exam. 75% of students will earn 70% or above overall on all exams and essays.
Homework	Reading and writing assignments (see above).

Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read INVESTIGATE AND INQUIRE incrementally throughout the semester and in conjunction with lecture presentations. Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 for Tests #1.
2. Read Chapters 3 and 4 for Test #2.
3. Read Chapter 5 and 6 for Test #3. 4. Entire book - Introduction and Chapters 1 - 6 for the Final Exam.

Writing Assignments

One five-page paper critically assessing at least one major idea from at least one religion studied in class. Compare and contrast two or more religious views on the same topic if appropriate.

Specific Examples:

1. Critically evaluate the personal and social implications of the following notion from Gnostic Christianity. "If God is infinite, then she/he is everywhere, and there is nowhere that she/he is not. Therefore, every person is of divine nature, no exceptions. Every material object in the world, animate or inanimate, is also divine."
2. Critically evaluate Buddha's teaching that desire is the cause of suffering. Be sure to include an analysis of existential fear as the other side of desire.

Outside-of-Class Assignments

Attend at least one religious ceremony or celebration of a faith other than the student's own professed faith.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Mooney, C.

Title

Comparative Religion: Investigate the World Through Religious Tradition (Inquire and Investigate)

Publisher

Nomad Press

Year

2015

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000535519

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No