

Course Outline
PHIL 131
Introduction to World Religions
3 Credit Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Introduction to World Religions

Develops a rational approach to the nature and purpose of religion and its historical expressions. 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.

Overall Course Objectives (10-20 objectives)

Upon the successful completion of this course the 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
11. explain how various world religions establish a theory of human nature

Major Topics

1. Defining Religion

2. Spiritual and non-spiritual world views
3. Myths
4. Rites, rituals and worship
5. Religious meaning and significance
6. The value and purpose of religion

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

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

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

Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic and assigned reading</u>
1	Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion Chapter 1
2	Religion in Various Cultures Chapter 2
3	Categories and Characteristics of Religions Chapter 2
4	The Beginnings of Indian Religion Chapter 3
5	Mahavira and Jainism Chapter 4
6	Buddha and Early Buddhism Chapter 5
7	Hinduism Chapter 6
8	Sikhism Chapter 7

9	Chinese Religion & Japanese Religion Chapters 8 & 9
10	Zoroastrianism Chapter 9
11	Judaism Chapter 12
12	Christianity Chapter 13
13	Islam Chapter 14
14-15	Summation and Review

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.