

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS

**Course Syllabus
Jordan Unit**

CLARENDON COLLEGE

Division of Liberal Arts

Course Name: PHIL 1304.565 Introductions to Major World Religions

Semester: Summer 2026

Classroom Location: Jordan Education Building

Meeting Time: Wednesday 8:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Instructor: Dr. Brad Swygard

Classes Begin May 19 and go through August 4

Key Dates

Last day to Drop no charge Thursday, May 21

Last Day to Drop with a W. Thursday, July 22

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of world religions, including but not limited to Indigenous Spirituality, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Statement of Purpose:

This course partially satisfies the requirements for the state of Texas core curriculum requirements, and the requirements for the associate's degree at Clarendon College.

Required Text:

Smith, Huston. *The World's Religions*. New York: Harper Collins, 1958. 431 pages.

ISBN 978-0-06-166018-4

Methods of Instruction: This course centers upon lecture, reading, and writing and tests. It is essential for the student to read the class assignments as a basis for the class. Class assignments and other materials will also be a part of the instructional process.

Core Objectives

In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, all American History courses at Clarendon College will address the following core objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
 - a. Assesses CT, COM, PR, and SR with a term paper
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
 - a. Assesses CT with document analysis of essay sources.
3. Be able to accurately describe major religions.
 - a. Assesses CT, COM, PR, and SR with same term paper as LO 1.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will have a well-informed understanding of the individuals, major events, and teachings that shaped the contemporary World Religions. To achieve this, the course will utilize the basic chapters in *The World's Religions*.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is important to maintain your financial aid as well as keep up with course materials for tests.

GRADE

The grade for this course will be earned through performance on quizzes and exams. Points will be awarded as follows:

EXAM I	100 points	25% of grade
EXAM II	100 points	25% of grade
Research Paper	100 points	20% of grade
Quizzes	100 points	20% of grade
Participation	100 points	10% of grade

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

SCHOOL COURSE POLICIES;

Academic Integrity

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment ; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; and/or, (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. **This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source**, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.) **Programs that "edit" or exchange words for synonyms are not acceptable:** I want to see YOUR writing and YOUR thoughts, not a computer-generated facsimile!

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the associate dean, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The

Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Dean of Students, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported by the faculty member, in writing, to the Dean of Students. If the Dean of Students observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Dean is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Dean of Students is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on your transcript instead. (The last day to drop a course is available on the Academic Calendar, located at the Student link on the Clarendon College website.) **Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate.** If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you have earned.

Whether to drop a class or not requires a lot of thought. According to Texas state law, a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Accommodation Statement

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

PERSONAL COURSE POLICIES

LATE WORK: I realize that life in the units is not always in your control. I may choose to allow **one assignment** to be turned in late if there are extenuating. Finally, you only get one week past the due date to complete your one late assignment. After that one week has passed, your grade will be entered as a zero if you have not turned in the work.

PLAGIARISM: Read the following explanations carefully and be sure that you understand them.

1. Word-for-word plagiarism: The student quotes his or her source without using quotation marks. Even if the student cites the source, he or she is still plagiarizing because proper quotation procedures were not used. A general rule of thumb is that if you borrow MORE THAN TWO WORDS IN A ROW, you must use quotation marks!

2. Paraphrased plagiarism: The student uses a source and with the exception of changing a few words or phrases essentially quotes the original. Even if the source is properly cited, the writing is still plagiarized because the student has used the author's style, vocabulary, and content and claimed it as his or her own.

3. Improper citations: If a student uses someone's information other than his or her own, the source of the material must be properly cited. Failure to do so is plagiarism.

4. Improper use of ideas: Ideas are as equally protected as words. If the student uses someone's ideas, but expresses them in his or her words, the student plagiarizes if he or she does not cite the source of the idea.

5. Internet use: Copying and pasting from the Internet is plagiarism. Purchasing papers from a paper mill is plagiarism. **Copying and running a "rewrite" program is the same as plagiarism.** Furthermore, these programs do not take into consideration the context of the synonyms used and often do not make sense.

6. Student sharing: While students are certainly free to work together and study together, an assignment that calls for individual work must reflect the student's personal effort. If a student borrows or copies another student's work, that is plagiarism. If a student has another student write a paper, that is

plagiarism. If two students collaborate on an individual assignment and turn in the same work, that is plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. It involves legal issues about improper use of materials that do not belong to the student. Plagiarism is also unethical. A student must do his or her own work; otherwise, the learning process is compromised. Plagiarism is unfair to fellow students who take the time and make the effort to do their own work. Essentially, plagiarism is cheating and will not be tolerated.

My Policy: Anyone who is dishonest in any way (including but not limited to plagiarism and the following examples), will receive a zero for that assignment, with no opportunity to make up the zero. It doesn't matter if the offense is a major writing assignment or something as simple as an extra credit assignment. You WILL receive a grade of F in the course for more than one violation. In addition, ***this instructor reserves the right to give the student an F for the class if there is any one cheating violation which is a deliberate, not accidental, infraction.***

In addition to the above, I invoke my own requirements:

- You are guilty of cheating on an assignment by letting someone else complete part or all of your work by using unauthorized electronic devices for in-class assignments or tests using someone else's electronic files letting someone else use your electronic files**

It is also unacceptable if you use work that you have previously turned in for myself or another instructor *if you don't get my permission first.* ALWAYS ASK!

WORLD RELIGIONS: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: SUMMER 2026

There will be a quiz each week except weeks 1 and 12.

WEEK 1 May 19

What is Religion? 1

WEEK 2 May 26

Primal Religion 365

WEEK 3 June 2

Hinduism 12

WEEK 4 June 9

Buddhism 82

WEEK 5 June 16

Confucianism 154

WEEK 6 June 23

Taoism 196

WEEK 7 June 30

TEST 1

WEEK 8 July 7

Islam 221

WEEK 9 July 14

Judaism 271

WEEK 10 July 21

Christianity 317

WEEK 11 July 28

Summary/ Review

Final Paper

WEEK 12 August 4

FINAL EXAM