

COURSE SYLLABUS

LAST REVIEW	12/2019
COURSE TITLE	Philosophy of Religion
COURSE NUMBER	PHIL 0200
DIVISION	Arts, Communications, and Humanities
DEPARTMENT	PHIL
CIP CODE	24.0101
CREDIT HOURS	3
CONTACT HOURS/WEEK	Class: 3 Lab: X Clinical: X
PREREQUISITE	PHIL 103 Intro. to Philosophy or PHIL 105 Logic

COURSE PLACEMENT Students must meet the correct placement measure for this course. Information may be found at:

<https://www.kckcc.edu/admissions/information/mandatory-evaluation-placement.html>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will offer a philosophical analysis of the nature and function of religion and its relation to culture. The methodology employed is that of logical and linguistic analysis. That is, this course will focus on analyzing arguments in order to determine their validity and, if possible, soundness (truth). This course will focus on the importance of understanding religious language (i.e., definitions of 'God,' the impact of religious terms, etc.). This course will emphasize the relationship between belief and action (ethical, social, and political action), the legitimacy (rationality) of religious belief(s), and whether or not religious beliefs are consistent with prescribed actions. This course will also focus on the consequences, or impact, of actions prescribed by religious beliefs on society.

An examination will be made of the basis of religion, and special attention will be given to the problems of religion and reality, religion and science, religion and morality, faith and reason, and the character and significance of religion in the present. Attention will also be given to various conceptions of God in different cultures and religious traditions, traditional arguments for the existence of God, the nature of God and the problem of evil, and free will.

KANSAS SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER: PHIL0200

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

This course is part of a program aligned through the Kansas Board of Regents and Technical Education Authority. For more information, please visit:

https://kansasregents.org/workforce_development/program-alignment

General Education Learning Outcome

- ☐ Basic Skills for Communication
- ☐ Mathematics
- ☐ Humanities
- ☐ Natural and Physical Sciences
- ☐ Social and Behavioral Sciences

Institutional Learning Outcomes

- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Computation and Financial Literacy
- ☐ Critical Reasoning
- ☐ Technology and Information Literacy
- ☐ Community and Civic Responsibility
- ☐ Personal and Interpersonal Skills

TEXTBOOKS

<http://kckccbbookstore.com/>

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Philosophical Approaches to the Study of Religion
 - A. Definition of 'Philosophy'
 - B. Logic

- C. Rationalism
 - D. Empiricism
 - E. Pragmatism
 - F. Mysticism
- II. Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Religion
- A. History
 - B. Sociology
 - C. Theology
 - D. Anthropology
 - E. Psychology
 - F. Feminism and Religion
- III. Definitions of 'Religion'
- A. Doctrine
 - B. Ultimate Concern
 - C. Relationship With Divine
 - D. Relationship With Nature
- IV. The Function of Religion
- A. Psychological Well-Being
 - B. Sense of Belonging and Meaning
 - C. Religion and Language
 - D. Religion and Art
 - E. Social
 - F. Political
 - G. The Relationship Between Religious Belief and Social/Political Action
- V. Religious Traditions
- A. Christianity
 - B. Judaism
 - C. Islam
 - D. Indigenous and Tribal Traditions
 - E. Non-Western Traditions
- VI. Is There a God?
- A. Cosmological Argument
 - B. Ontological Argument
 - C. Teleological Argument
 - D. Non-Western Arguments
 - E. Indigenous and Tribal Arguments
- VII. God, Free Will, and the Problem of Evil
- A. Determinism

- B. Voluntarism
 - C. Karma and Freedom
 - D. Both Free and Determined
 - E. Evil in African and Native American Thought
 - F. Evil in Eastern Thought
 - G. Can Evil Be Explained?
- VIII. Faith and Reason
- A. Aquinas: The Compatibility of Faith and Reason
 - B. Kant: The Separation of Faith and Reason
 - C. Kierkegaard: Faith Independent of Reason
 - D. James: Pragmatic Justification for Faith
- IX. Religion and Ethics
- A. Divine Command Theory
 - B. Natural Law Theory
 - C. Christianity
 - D. Judaism
 - E. Islam
 - F. Buddhism
 - G. Hinduism
 - H. Confucianism
 - I. African Religion and Ethics
 - J. Native American Religion and Ethics
 - K. The Relationship Between Religious Belief and Ethical Action
- X. Religion and Science
- A. Creationism
 - B. Evolution
 - C. The Character and Significance of Religion Today

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

- A. The student will be able to define and explain the different philosophical approaches to religion.
- B. The student will be able to define and explain interdisciplinary approaches to the study of religion.
- C. The student will be able to evaluate the various definitions of religion.
- D. The student will understand the historical and contemporary arguments concerning the function of religion.
- E. The student will be able to compare and contrast Western and Non-Western religious traditions.

- F. The students will be able to restate and analyze arguments for and against the existence of God.
- G. The student will be able to state and analyze arguments concerning free will, determinism, and the problem of evil.
- H. The student will understand the debates between faith and reason.
- I. The student will be able to relate religion and ethics.
- J. The student will be able to state and evaluate the conflicts between religion and science
- K. The student will be able to explain and evaluate the character and significance of religion in the twenty-first century.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES

Student progress is evaluated through both formative and summative assessment methods. Specific details may be found in the instructor's course information document.

COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Handbook

<https://www.kckcc.edu/files/docs/student-resources/student-handbook-and-code-of-conduct.pdf>

College Catalog

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/catalog/index.html>

College Policies and Statements

<https://www.kckcc.edu/about/policies-statements/index.html>

Accessibility and Accommodations

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/resources/student-accessibility-support-services/index.html>.