



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: PHIL 2200 Intro to World Religions

Section ID: 81327.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

Catalog Course Description: A comparative, historical and philosophical introduction to the world's religions . F, S. (T)

General Education Course Designation: General Education Course

Meeting Details: MW; 09:35AM - 11:00AM; MBSS 243

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Matthew Baddorf

Office Location: CCEN 215B

Office Hours: In-person office hours: Tuesdays 9:30 AM-3:30 PM, Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-2:20 PM and 3:45-4:00 PM. Virtual office hours: Thursdays and Fridays 9:00 AM-2:30 PM. Virtual meetings any weekday by appointment. (Please, feel free to send me an email to set up a meeting; I'll try to work around your schedule!) For virtual office hours, the best way to get in touch is to send me an E-learn email or Microsoft Teams message; these virtual office hours are guides to when I'm generally available, but I'm happy to meet another time as well. Virtual meetings can happen over Teams, some other video chat, or a phone call (I'll provide my cell phone number).

Office Phone: 423-585-6931

Email: Matthew.Baddorf@ws.edu

Supervisor Name: Dean Rob Pratt

Supervisor Phone: 423-585-6952

Secretary Name: Debbie Wilson

Secretary Phone: 423-585-6922

Required Textbook(s) and Materials

Sacred Texts of the World

Subtitle: A Universal Anthology

ISBN: 0824506391

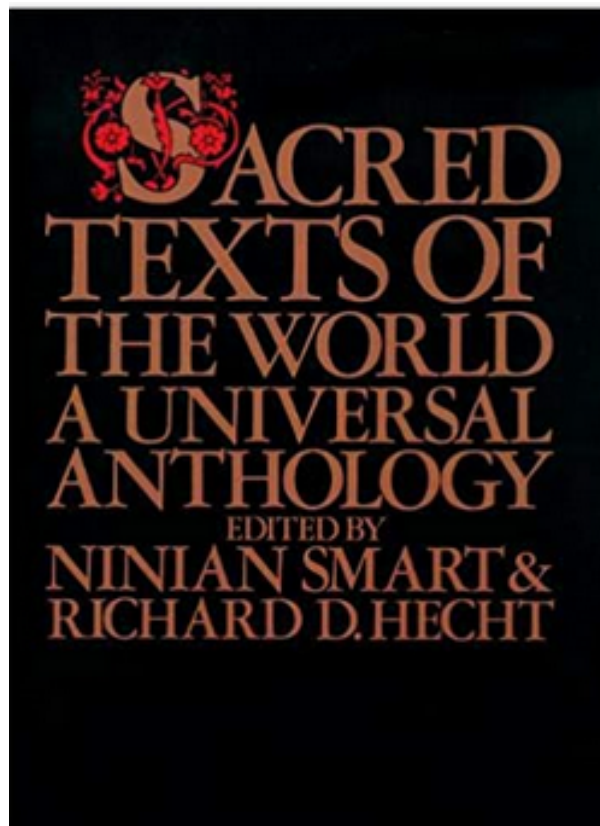
Authors: Ninian Smart and Richard Hecht

Publisher: Herder & Herder

Publication Date: 1984

Edition: Revised ed. edition

Additional Information



Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- 1. Be able to define the basic terms used in the study of religion.
- 2. Be able to describe and compare key features of world religions.

- 3. Be able to discuss the meaning of selected chapters from the Tao Te Ching.
- 4. Be able to define the basic terms in Hinduism.
- 5. Articulate “The Four Noble Truths” of Buddhism.
- 6. Be able to describe the “Good News” of Jesus Christ.
- 7. Explain the Jewish passion for meaning.
- 8. Be able to tell the story of Muhammad.
- 9. Articulate the “Five Pillars” of Islam.

Instructional Approach and Methods

1. The course includes lecture, class discussion and activities, and formal and informal writing.
2. Evaluation happens informally through class discussion and formally through graded assignments consisting of quizzes, tests, writing assignments, and a written paper.

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

1. There will be two exams (including a cumulative final examination), likely take-home exams.

Grading Scale

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

Assignments

Quizzes (approximately one per class session)

Tests (2)

Final Paper

More details about all of these can be found in the Assignments Prompts document on E-Learn.

Class Participation

Class attendance is mandatory, and class participation is expected.

Course and Class Policies/Procedures

I. Assignments and Assessment

The grading goes as follows:

Quizzes: 25%

Mid-Term: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Paper: 25%

For details about each assignment, see the separate assignment prompt document on E-Learn.

II. Class Policies

- Disrespect (for your classmates or for your instructor) will not be tolerated. Remember: **people on the internet are people too!**

- To succeed you will also need to be able to use some computer programs (a web browser and writing program), as well as E-Learn (our class will have a dedicated web site on that system available through your browser) and the E-Learn email system. Help with E-Learn itself can be found on E-Learn (see the “Student Help” drop-down menu towards the top). If you try to do something and can’t work out how to do it, contact me or tech support.

- Think of this class as an exercise in **impartial, dispassionate, free and rational thinking** about some contentious moral issues. For the purposes of this course (though I think this is good practice just in general), I’ll ask you to set aside your own likes and dislikes, your feelings, your upbringing and instead **concentrate on giving reasons** for the positions you defend and against the ones you criticize. And the reasons you offer should be, as far as is possible, ones that any sane, rational, clear-thinking person could be expected to accept, or at any rate, recognize even if they don’t agree with the conclusions you draw from those reasons. I don’t care (as your instructor, anyway) what you *think* about any particular issue. What matters is what kind of *reasons* you provide for what you think. So, that’s what I’ll evaluate: I’ll evaluate *your reasons for* a particular position; I won’t evaluate your position itself.

And I expect the same from you, too! I’ll expect you to evaluate *the reasons* given for a particular position, whether they are from a particular philosopher you’re reading, your classmates, or your instructor. But this takes it for granted that you’ll do your best to respect those with which you’re engaging, that you’ll keep your cool and try your best to see things from the side of your opponent. This takes it for granted that you’ll assume (as you ought) that each philosopher you read, each classmate you interact with, and your instructor are all rational, sane, clear-thinking people. Perhaps not all of us are; but you’ll be expected to engage with us as if we are.

- You should get in touch with me with any questions you’ve got: I want to help! But before you do, spend a few minutes checking to see whether your question is answered by this syllabus or by one of the other ‘master documents’ for the course (the assignments prompt documents and the course schedule). If after some searching you can’t find what you’re looking for, send me an email or come find me in person.

- You must be reachable via eLearn email. If I need to contact you, personally, for any reason at all, this will be the method through which I contact you. Do not neglect to check your eLearn email often! It is also the best way to get in touch with me.

- You should check the home page of our E-Learn web site regularly as well. Any changes to our schedule or plans will be announced there.

III. Tentative Course Schedule

Please see the course schedule document on E-Learn.

Online/Web-Enhanced Course Supplementary Information

Virtual Office Hours	See above
Library Information	None
Technical Support	IET Helpdesk: 423-318-2742
Web Addresses/Resources	Course E-Learn Site
Guidelines for Communication: Email, Discussion Posts, Chat	Students must be reachable via their eLearn email.

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
 - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
 - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.

2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
- a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
 - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](#)
ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](#)
ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\)](#)
helpdesk.ws.edu

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\)](#)
ws.edu/student-services/disability/

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](http://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](http://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.

- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](#)

ws.edu/home/

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](#)
[ws.edu/set/](#)

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)