

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title:	Philosophy of Religion		Date submitted:	Spring 2014 (AAC: 14-25)	
Department:	Humanities				
Curriculum:	Philosophy				
Course Descriptors: Make certain that the course descriptors are consistent with college and Board of Trustees policies, and the current course numbering system.	Course Code: (eg. ACC 101)	PHL*150	Prerequisites:		
	Course Type:	L/D	C- or better in Composition (ENG*101)		
	A: Clinical B: Lab D: Distance Learning I: Individual/Independent L: Lecture N: Internship M: Seminar P: Practicum U: Studio X: Combined Lecture/Lab Y: Combined Lecture/ Clinical/Lab Z: Combined Lecture/Studio		Elective Type:	G/HU/LAS	
	AH: Art History E: English FA: Fine Arts FL: Foreign Language G: General HI: History HU: Humanities LAS: Liberal Arts & Sciences M: Math S: Science SS: Social Science		Credit Hours:	3	
	Developmental: (yes/no)	No	Corequisites:		
	Contact Hours:	Lecture:	3	None	
		Clinical:	0		
		Lab:	0		
		Studio:	0		
		Other:	0		
TOTAL:	3	Other Requirements:			
Class Maximum:	35	None			
Semesters Offered:	F/Sp/Su				
Ability Based Education (ABE) Statement:	At Tunxis Community College students are assessed on the knowledge and skills they have learned. The faculty identified the General Education Abilities critical to students' success in their professional and personal lives. In every class, students are assessed on course abilities, sometimes program abilities, and, in most classes, at least one General Education Ability. Students will receive an evaluation of the degree to which they have demonstrated or not demonstrated that General Education Ability.				
Catalog Course Description:	A philosophical inquiry into the nature, logic, and meaning of religion. Such inquiry involves analyzing the language and reasoning that form religious truth claims, as well as advancing rational arguments as to whether a divine being (or state of being) exists or could exist. The course will examine a broad range of religious concepts, including immortality, an afterlife, evil, and miracles, along with the role of interreligious dialogue and modern science in this area of study.				
Topical Outline: List course content in outline format.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Concise History of the Philosophy of Religion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Basic outlines of the history of Western philosophical inquiry into religious ideas B. Brief overview of selected historical investigations of religious themes from 				

	<p>non-Western philosophical perspectives (e.g., Indian, Chinese, and/or Islamic traditions)</p> <p>2. Truth Claims and the Problems of Religious Language</p> <p>A. Recognizing the key function of the definition of terms in the examination of truth claims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the class will examine the range of possible meanings of words such as “truth,” “faith,” “reason,” ‘etc. <p>B. This will provide context for the heart of the course: the relationship between logic and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. common truth claims themselves 2. theological warrants (grounds or alleged “givens”) 3. claims for a scientific (empirically reproducible and verifiable; or falsifiable) basis to the accessibility of religious experience 4. fully developed arguments on religious subjects <p>3. Belief and Disbelief in God:</p> <p>A. The class will address historical and contemporary arguments for the existence of God (or analogous conceptions for divinity):</p> <p>B. The class will address related concepts and explanations for them; e.g.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the existence of evil 2. death, an afterlife, and immortality 3. miracles <p>4. Distinguishing Between Academic and Religious Perspectives on Religion...and Evaluating Potential Bridges</p> <p>A. The course will explore the philosophy of religion as a modern secular discipline</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to contrast its function with the purposes of religious study and practice from a believer’s point of view 2. to consider ways in which this branch of philosophy may permit some degree of engagement with such “insiders” perspectives. <p>B. In order to examine how academic fields justify their own standards of objectivity, the course will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. concisely compare and contrast the methods of the philosophy of religion with those of selected other academic disciplines that address religion <p>5. Western and International Repercussions of the Divergence of Faith and</p>
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	<p>Reason</p> <p>A. An overview of this schism during the European Enlightenment</p> <p>B. A survey of some modern and postmodern reactions to that development which have influenced the philosophy of religion; e.g. (among others):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. phenomenology 2. logical positivism 3. process theology 4. semiotics 5. feminism and gender studies 6. interreligious dialogue and religious pluralism 7. views opposing “scientism” 8. the growing new field of “Religion and Science”
<p>Outcomes: Describe measurable skills or knowledge that students should be able to demonstrate as evidence that they have mastered the course content.</p>	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:</p> <p>COURSE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify key subjects addressed by the philosophy of religion in its historical evolution 2. compare and contrast the methods and purposes of modern forms of the philosophy of religion with those of traditional theology 3. maintain a regular double-entry journal of annotated passages from readings—as the basis for the following ability: 4. apply rigorous philosophical logic and reasoning to the study of religious truth claims and arguments, as well as to the building of an original “impartial” argument in the discipline <p>PROGRAM: <i>(Numbering reflects Program Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)</i> N/A</p> <p>GENERAL EDUCATION: <i>(Numbering reflects General Education Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)</i></p> <p>2. Critical Analysis/ Logical Thinking - Students will be able to organize, interpret, and evaluate evidence and ideas within and across disciplines; draw reasoned inferences and defensible conclusions; and solve problems and make decisions based on analytical processes.</p> <p>Demonstrates: Identifies the issue(s); formulates an argument; explains and analyzes relationships clearly; draws reasonable inferences and conclusions that are logical and defensible; provides support by evaluating credible sources of evidence necessary to justify conclusions.</p> <p>Does Not Demonstrate: Identifies few or no issues; formulates an argument without significant focus; provides an unclear explanation of analysis and relationships; drawing few reasonable inferences and conclusions that are illogical and indefensible; provides little to no support using</p>

	<p>credible sources of evidence necessary to justify conclusions.</p> <p>11. Written Communication (embedded) - Students will be prepared to develop written texts of varying lengths and styles that communicate effectively and appropriately across a variety of settings.</p> <p>Demonstrates: Writes articulate texts using appropriate evidence and appeals as determined by the rhetorical situation.</p> <p>Does Not Demonstrate: Writes texts lacking appropriate evidence and appeals as determined by the rhetorical situation.</p>
<p>Evaluation: List how the above outcomes will be assessed.</p>	<p>Assessment will be based on the following criteria: Mid-semester and/or final examinations (as determined by the instructor); two major papers of at least five pages (1350+ words): the first, a formal analysis of a classical religious truth claim and its accompanying argument, and the second, an original extended argument for or against the existence of God (or comparable form of divinity); a regular double-entry journal of key passages from readings, maintained as a basis for the papers; and, at the instructor’s discretion, quizzes; discussions (in-class or distance, according to course medium); oral presentations; and group projects.</p>
<p>Instructional Resources: List library (e.g. books, journals, on-line resources), technological (e.g. Smartboard, software), and other resources (e.g. equipment, supplies, facilities) required and desired to teach this course.</p>	<p>Required: Current library and technological resources are adequate for this course.</p> <p>Desired: None</p>
<p>Textbook(s)</p>	<p>Suggestions: <i>Readings in the Philosophy of Religion: East Meets West</i> by Andrew Eshleman <i>A Companion to Philosophy of Religion</i> by Philip L. Quinn (Editor), Charles Taliaferro (Editor)</p>