COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: PHIL 1160: Philosophy of Religion

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College level reading and writing as determined by assessment test or passage of ENGL 1117
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course will examine the most fundamental questions and concepts of religion across a variety of religious and cultural traditions. We will critically examine the nature of religion, attempts to prove God’s existence, views of ultimate reality, permanence and impermanence, religious experience, truth claims of competing religions, and the meaning of religious language. Readings will be selected from classical and contemporary philosophy of religion at the discretion of the instructor.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): January, 2012

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. What is Philosophy of Religion?
   a) Comparative Study
   b) Philosophical vs. Theological
   c) Philosophical vs. Sociological

2. Diverse Views of Ultimate Reality
   a) Polytheism
   b) Pantheism
   c) Monotheism
   d) Non-Dualism
   e) Non-theistic Traditions
   f) Atheism and Agnosticism

3. Can We Prove Ultimate Reality
   a) Ontological Argument
   b) Cosmological Argument
   c) Teleological Argument
   d) We Cannot Prove the Ultimate

   a) Mysticism
   b) Noumenal Experience
   c) Revelation
   d) Satori/Non-Being

5. The Problem of Evil
   a) Why Does Evil Exist?
   b) Does Evil Exist?

6. Are We Immortal?
   a) We Are Immortal
   b) We Are Not Immortal
   c) What Does Immortality Mean?

7. Do Faith and Reason Conflict?
   a) Medical Technology and Faith
   b) Creationism vs. Evolutionism
C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS: Continued . . .

8. What is the Meaning of Religious Language?
   a) Logical Emptiness of Religious Semantics
   b) Symbolism and Sign
   c) Does God Talk Make Sense?

9. Humanism, Science and Miracles
   a) Expectations and Miracles
   b) What Qualifies as a Miracle?
   c) God as a Projection
   d) God as an Opiate

10. Are All Religions True
    a) How Do We Adjudicate?
    b) Interpenetration
    c) Hindu Perspective on the Unity of Religions
    d) Other Unification Theories

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
1. Identify several ways of thinking about major religious questions.
2. Discuss how social & geographic environment influence the metaphysics and epistemology of disparate belief systems.
3. Compare religious positions on major philosophical issues.
5. Understand current religious conflicts and avoid serious errors in judgment which block the path to practical resolutions.
6. Explain major concepts and terminology in the philosophy of religion.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 8/Global Perspectives: The student will be able to:
1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements, which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizen’s share for their common global future.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
Possible means of evaluation include:
1. A series of short (3-5 page) paper
2. Essay tests and quizzes
3. Objective tests and quizzes
4. Journals
5. Term papers
F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING: Continued. . .
6. Community service projects
7. in-class presentations

G. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S) Addressed:
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Global Awareness/Diversity
- Civic Responsibility
- Personal/Professional Accountability
- Aesthetic Response

H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None