



## PHIL 2600

**Division:** Humanities

**Department:** Philosophy

**Course:** PHIL 2600

**Title:** World Religion and Scripture

**Catalog Description:**

This course is an introductory study of scripture, art, history, belief, and music of religion. This study leads students to discover the values and culture of religious institutions.

**General Education Requirements:** Humanities

**Semesters Offered:** Fall

**Credit/Time Requirement:** Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

**Clock/Hour Requirements:** 0

**Offered for Non-Credit:** No

**Justification:**

The course is needed to help students understand the beliefs of other cultures and religions. Every college in Utah offers this class and many include it as part of a diversity requirement. Snow College, being less diverse than most urban universities, needs to offer this exposure to the student body.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

As a result of this course a student will:

- A. Be able to explain basic beliefs and practices of major world religions.
- B. Be able to explain the historical development of major world religions.
- C. Be able to demonstrate the ability to interpret scriptures of major world religions in the context of their theology.
- D. Be able to explain how religious concepts are expressed in art.

**Content:**

The following topics are selections from primary texts will be included in the readings and writings:

- A. Common elements of world religions
- B. Hinduism and Buddhism *Law of Manu, Bhagavad Gita*
- C. Taoism and Confucianism *Tao Te Ching, Analects of Confucious*
- D. Shinto and Sen Buddhism *Dhammapada*
- E. Judaism and Catholicism *Torah, Bible*
- F. Islam *Quran*

**General Education Outcomes:**

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students read a variety of scriptures and discussions of religions and share their understanding of religion as a social, historical, and philosophic perspective. For example students read passages from the Koran and discuss

the concept of a jihaid as personal moral reform as well as a religious war. I critique their discussions in class.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students write essays in answer to questions raised in the class. Likewise, exams are essay based. For example students will write an essay comparing the road to spiritual salvation in Hinduism and Christianity. I will grade the essays and critique the accuracy of content and the clarity of expression.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Students study religion as an aspect of culture that changes through history. For example Christianity in the Middle Ages reflects the social hierarchy of feudalism; modern Christianity includes "New Age" beliefs in psychological wellness. Students are required to apply this awareness in essay exam answers to questions like "How do you see a particular religion changing and why?"

8) Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of contexts.

Students study moral systems in major religions and evaluate how these principles are applied by followers of that religion. For example Buddhism's 8 fold path is discussed and applied to the Dalai Lama's teaching on compassion when confronting the Chinese occupation of Tibet

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Students will study and discuss the religious concepts expressed in religious art. For example students discuss a statue of the Hindu god of destruction and reproduction, Shiva, standing on an infant. The representation connects to concepts of reincarnation and moksha (release).

**Key Performance Indicators:**

There will be objective quizzes, short essays, two exams, one term paper, and group-lead activities.

7 Written responses - (5 points possible per week) 35 points

4 Oral quizzes - (5 points per) 20 points

Group activity - 20 points

Special topic poster - 15 points

Religious service report - 10 points

Mid-term - 50 points

Final exam - 50 points

Total - 200 points

90% - A-

80% - B-The above assessment is approximate and may vary by instructor.

**Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

Hopfe and Woodward, *Religions of the World* (current edition)

**Optimum Class Size:** 20

**Maximum Class Size:** 30

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Philosophy Department:

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Mike Kowalski, , , Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

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Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

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Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

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Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)